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The Library In Hard Times
Carl B. Roden

The Spirit Of The 1932 Library Budget
William Elder Marcus, Jr.

Building A Large Reference Collection In A Public Library
Marilla Waite Freeman
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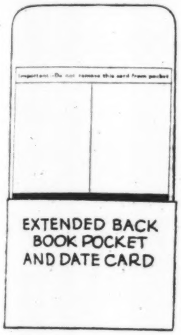

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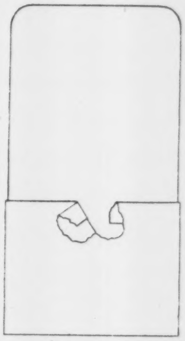

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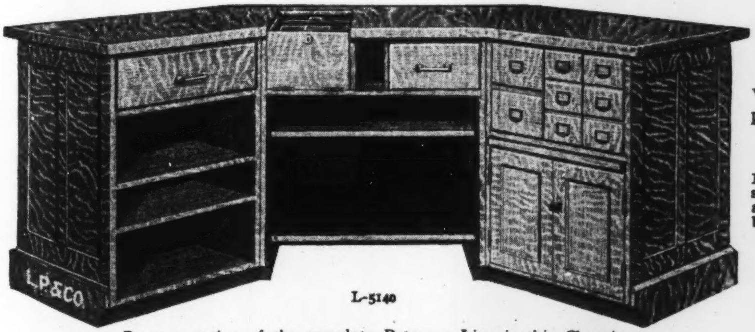

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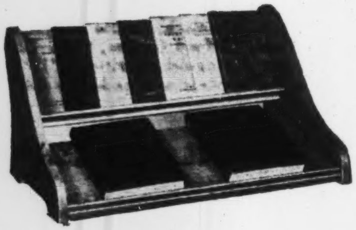

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VOL. 56, No. 21 DECEMBER 1, 1931

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Forthcoming Issues of
THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

Besides the previously announced papers on "The Trend and Tendencies in Education for Librarianship" and "Books We Like" scheduled for the December 15 number of THE LIBRARY JOURNAL, we also have the long-looked-for bibliography of Yiddish Books from 1927-1931 by Miss Jennie Meyrowitz of the Queens Borough Public Library. Those who have used Miss Meyrowitz's lists in previous issues of the JOURNAL, over a period of years, will be delighted to know that this list is even more complete than ever and will be of tremendous value.

A few reports of State Library meetings have not come in yet. May we remind the Secretaries that unless they are sent very soon they will go over until 1932 and thus will not be indexed in the 1931 volume.

B. E. W.

LATEST HARVARD BOOKS

Huntington Library Bulletin, 2

Early in December we shall issue the second Number of the Huntington Library Bulletin; the price will be $3.50 a copy. The Contents include the following articles: Check List of English Newspapers and Periodicals before 1801, by *Anthony J. Gabler;* Some Explorations in San Marino, by *Sir William Beveridge;* Elizabethan Proof Corrections in "The First Part of The Contention" (1600), by *Tucker Brooke;* Four Scarce Poems of George Wither, by *J. Milton French;* Letters and Accounts of James Brydges, 1705-1713, by *Edward Leon Harvey;* Coleridge Marginalia in Henry Brooke's "The Fool of Quality," by *Edwin Berck Dike.*

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THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

The Library in Hard Times

By CARL B. RODEN

Librarian, Chicago, Illinois, Public Library

TO BEGIN WITH, and by way of preparing a basis for such deductions as we may be able to make, I have thought it necessary to refer at some length to the financial situation as it exists, and has existed for two years, in Chicago, although I realize, and certainly hope, that the peculiar predicament under which we are laboring has and will have no parallel elsewhere. It is also quite possible that the magnitude of our operations, and the expedients to which we were forced to resort, will be of little value, except by contrast and by way of consolation, to libraries serving smaller communities. However, I have only my own experiences to draw upon and have not regarded it as part of my task to gather reports from other places. I must therefore give you what I have for what it may be worth to you. In general, it is safe to say that the lot of the public library is not a happy one in these times, and that most of them have suffered more or less severely, both from the reduction of values and from the reduction of income. By far the largest class of sufferers, and the one with which we here are most directly concerned, is the public libraries supported by taxation, the state university and other state institutional libraries and the public school libraries, all deriving their revenues from the same source. The endowed libraries, such as the Newberry and John Crerar in Chicago, have not, I am told, at least not yet, felt the pinch to anything like the same extent.

In our own much maligned city the hard times began for all of the municipal agencies a full year before the catastrophe of October, 1929. They had their origin in the complete suspension of the levy and collection of taxes, due to widespread dissatisfaction with the current valuations. New valuations were ordered, but for various reasons, they were so long delayed that the whole year of 1929 passed by without any tax collections whatever, the collections that would have formed the normal revenue for that year not being actually received and made available until June or July, 1930. The whole municipality, therefore,—city, county, schools, library and all the rest—was obliged to live through the year 1929 on borrowed money, and since loans against tax levies are restricted by law to 75 per cent of the anticipated receipts, they had to live on 75 per cent, and actually did get along on less than that.

Meanwhile the celebrated Depression was upon us, and when the taxes were finally collected, it was found that the net receipts were so much lower than our carefully estimated anticipations that they actually did not cover our borrowings, amounting to less than 75 per cent of the levy. We therefore ended that calamitous year with a debt equal to all of its probable net income, a further debt of over $400,000 or 20 per cent against next year's income, and an interest charge of $300 a day.

Paper presented to Michigan Library Association at Battle Creek, Michigan.

By that time the municipal finances were so involved that for all practical purposes a deadlock had ensued. That is exactly the way that the Chicago banks viewed the situation, and the next thing we learned was that they declined to lend any more money on city warrants, the prospects for the payment of which were daily growing more remote.

To meet this situation a Citizens' Committee was organized, composed of financiers, business men, students of public affairs, and headed by a very able and public spirited lawyer. This Committee called upon all of the taxing bodies to submit their budgets, based upon only their most urgent necessities, and proceeded to fund these charges, amounting in all to some $200,000,000 and, by taking charge of the receipts from taxes as they slowly came in, and doling them out in proportionate amounts to the several city departments, managed to keep them functioning on a reasonable basis. Just here I must refer to a ruling of the Citizens' Committee which, although it was afterwards reconsidered, seems to me one of the significant by-products of the whole situation, and to involve a point that is very pertinent to this discussion. The ruling, or possibly only the informal opinion of some members of the Committee as it reached us, was that the Public Library was not an essential municipal activity, and could not be considered in the allotment of funds. As I have said, this dictum was not adhered to, perhaps because of the surpassing persuasive powers of our financial officer, but nevertheless it reflects the first, spontaneous reaction of a body of men of affairs, seriously and competently dealing with a municipal problem of the highest importance, and bringing to bear upon it their proverbial hard-headed, trained intelligence.

For the time being, and for the purpose for which the Citizens' Committee was called together, namely, to pull the city out of a hole, it functioned efficiently and successfully. We, i.e., the Library, paid up most of our 1929 loans, and entered the next year, 1930, with a lien of more than $400,000 against the income for that year. The Citizens' Committee adjourned with the expectation that the tax collections would gradually straighten themselves out. But, to date, they have not done so; the banks are still refusing to lend against the indefinite prospects of reimbursement. The City is finding cash for current expenses through the temporary use of funds allocated to other purposes; the School Board suspended all payments, including teachers' salaries, last April; the Public Library has been able to borrow through friends of the Trustees and other private sources.

That is, briefly, the story of the origin and progress of our predicament. It will not be necessary to carry it forward to cover the present year, which has brought no definite change in a state of affairs that has become increasingly more difficult because of the continuing refusal of the banks to lend, and the gradual failure of other sources for loans. On the first of June, 1931, all book purchases, both new and for addition or replacement, were discontinued, and on October 1, for the first time, salaries remained unpaid.

Returning now to our first retrenchment measures, in the 1930 budget, it was found absolutely necessary to cut expenses by a sum of at least $400,000 or more than 20 per cent of the estimated requirements of the year. The measures resorted to to meet this emergency, and it had to be met so promptly that the whole matter was dealt with and settled in one evening meeting of the Board, were the following:

The branch libraries (forty-five), normally operating on a 12-hour daily schedule, six days a week, were placed on an 8-hour day.

The staff was reduced by the elimination of 229 persons out of a total of 1,080, nearly all from the lower and untrained grades, and most of them from the branches. This reduction resulted in a salary saving of something over $200,000 for the eleven months beginning February 1.

The remaining branch staff was spread over the system, junior duties falling to the lot of seniors, and grade divisions being pretty well scrambled in many instances.

To avoid a solid week's evening work for the staff in branches, the hours were changed on alternate days, extending from 9:00 to 5:30 on one day, and from 1:00 to 9:00 on the next. To provide one free half-day a week for the staff and to preserve the legal working limit of forty-one hours a week, the branches were closed on Thursday afternoons during the winter, and on Saturday afternoons during the summer.

The Book Fund was cut from $230,000 to $100,000. In 1929 the expenditure for books had been $266,000. In 1930 we spent for new books for all departments only a little more than $40,000, and for replacements the remaining $60,000, about 40 per cent of our normal replacement cost. Binding was reduced only by $5,000, from $100,000 to $95,000, since it was felt that the necessity of keeping the book stock in good condition would be more important than ever before and that this item should be sacrificed only as a last resort. And so, with other reductions and economies in all the other regular items of expenditure, we finally managed to balance our budget at a figure $400,000 below its normal aggregate.

Now, what were the proximate or immediate consequences, and what, if any, lessons, or morals, or conclusions useful or worth considering for possible usefulness for future application may be drawn therefrom?

Well, with service hours reduced one-third and book purchase one-half, the circulation for the year dropped one-twenty-fifth in the whole system, and one-sixteenth in the branches, the totals for the year being 13,915,333 against 14,534,393 for the previous year in the whole system, and 8,208,725 against 8,755,974 in the branches. We flatter ourselves that some of this remarkable showing was due to the care and thoroughness with which our book stock had been kept up and replenished in former years. A large amount of credit, also, is due to the zeal and ingenuity of the staff in exploiting the old books, and in current phrase, making the public like them. The fact remains, however, that to our patrons all over the city, the retrenchments and deprivations that loomed so large to us meant next to nothing at all. They adjusted themselves quickly to the shortened branch hours (the Central Library, by the way, maintained its full-time schedule) and came during the time when the branches were open. The chief consequence was that the staff in the branches literally did twelve hours work in eight. The shifting hours from day to day caused considerable perplexity and resulted in many telephone calls—thousands in the daily aggregate, constituting an added strain upon the overworked assistants. Here and there somebody grumbled about the lack of new books or the awkward hours. Here and there, also, some sympathetic souls condoled with the branch assistants and smugly hoped that things would soon improve. But nowhere was there any definite indication of dissatisfaction or any current of public sentiment strong enough to make itself felt. And the buoyant hope expressed by some members of our Board, that, if we "passed this thing on to the public," we should soon hear from that many-headed creature in emphatic protests that would bring results, proved to be utterly vain. The public does not yet know that anything has been passed on to it. Only the staff knows it, and, perforce, bears its added burden in patient silence. I wonder if that is a unique experience?

With reference to the effects that Unemployment has had upon the number and character of our patrons and on the use of books, I feel again that there is little that I have to offer that will not be reflected in conditions everywhere else. A meeting of representative branch librarians, called together some weeks ago to consider existing conditions and the outlook for the winter, elicited practically nothing new nor anything unusual or unexpected. It was reported that both attendance and circulation were increasing rapidly. During the three months of the past summer the net gain in circulation, allowing for the resumption of the twelve-hour day, and the opening of two new and very large branches, has averaged nearly 75,000 volumes a month, or between 8 per cent and 9 per cent, despite the terrific summer weather and our sadly depleted book stock. The greater number of men is noticeable, particularly in the industrial districts, such as Pullman and some parts of the West Side. The number of borrowers' cards issued to men has risen perceptibly. For the most part, however, they are room readers, content to pass the time with a book or magazine. Efforts to interest them in systematic reading or in books relating to their vocations have met with varying results. It has been found that older men are much more responsive to such suggestions than those of lesser years, which is natural enough, regardless of the times.

One consequence of the Depression has been that many young people have been prevented from returning to college and university this fall, especially at a distance from home. It seems likely that many in this group, which is not so much oppressed by the pessimism and resentment that seems to have overcome the young men deprived of their employment, may be ready to avail themselves of the opportunities for self-study offered by the library. We feel that here might well be a promising field for new usefulness if we were ourselves in a better position to supply the needful books and the service to give them effect.

An incidental feature worth noticing is the marked reduction in receipts from book fines which with us have decreased from an average of over $10,000 a month to something less than $6,000, and this in spite of the heavily increased circulation. While some of this drop is due to sheer inability to pay, a condition that is met with more and more frequently, by far the larger portion represents a greater diligence in the observance of due dates in order to avoid even these small expenditures. The same economies are reflected in the reduced proceeds from rental collections, although these may also have suffered from the fact that no new books have recently been added, since, nothwithstanding the importunities of many patrons, we have been disinclined to offer books for rental of which there were no copies in the free collection.

But the principal phenomenon, and one that, as it were, is making us sit up and take notice, is the apparent contentment with which the public has turned to the use of the older books and is getting along without a continuous flow of new ones. I say apparent, because this state of mind may be only temporary and may have been induced by a patient acceptance of conditions resulting from our well-understood and well-advertised circumstances. Yet this indubitable fact may well give us pause, and may lead to a re-examination of our book selection processes with a view to investing them with a somewhat larger deliberation and a somewhat smaller deference to the demands of the moment. We have never succumbed to the new practice, happily not yet very widespread, of proudly displaying the new books on the day of publication, and I trust that we never shall. But I have now on my table, and have had for many months, a file of some 400 titles published in 1929 and 1930 in the 900 classes alone, many of which, in better times, would long ago have been added to our shelves, but most of which, now that another year has passed, will, I dare say, never be added at all, and never be missed. In fiction we have for some years rather stealthily practiced a gradual tapering off in the purchase of new titles until in 1930 we ended the year with only 172 out of the 1350 that were published, which, I think, establishes a new "low" in fiction purchases in large libraries. Granting that this was too scanty an apportionment, conditioned, as it was, largely upon our necessities, the fact remains that we got away with it, and that when we published the list and asked for comment, the few responses we received were all by way of approbation. This small reaction, too, perhaps reflects a public attitude that we may hitherto have altogether misapprehended. At all events, we are thus predisposed to watch the effects of our present moratorium on the new books with more than passing interest and to speculate upon their possible bearing on our practices when the Times shall be no longer Hard.

I have heard it said, and seen it written, that the present economic situation offers to the public libraries of this country a large field of new opportunities for usefulness. I have even heard it said that the public library had, or should have, an important part to play, or contribution to make, in the solution of the crisis that envelops the world. I admit that, after some thought, I have been totally unable to discover any clue to the trails leading to either of these new fields. Coincident with the depletion of our own resources, in money, in unreplenished stocks, and so in service, we have been called upon to make room in our libraries, large and small, for a large new contingent of, shall we say, visitors, or patrons. Unemployment is filling our reading rooms and fattening our statistics. Most of the newcomers are strangers to us, as we and our functions are to them. There are many men; there are also many women. We know why they come; that, for most, our comfortable quarters are first of all a shelter, a place to rest or to spend the dreary hours. If they read, it is to pass the time, and none will grudge them the comfort or pleasure or forgetfulness that their reading may bring them. We employ all of our arts of hospitality to make them feel at home, and all our ingenuities to make books and the habitual use of books attractive to them. We hope they will come again, and will continue to come even when times are better. Perhaps by that time they will have acquired the habit of coming. Some will; perhaps many. But, whether many or few, depending upon the efficiency of our methods, these will constitute about the only advantage accruing to us as the result of the Hard Times. These and those others, doubtless a much larger number, who having once experienced our hospitality in times of stress, will thereafter show a glint of recognition and appreciation in their eyes when they pass the Public Library building, or hear its name spoken. And that, likewise, will be all to the good.

And so, though I feel sure that I am disappointing my audience, I must again admit that, beyond these obvious opportunities to extend the circle of our patrons and friends, I have failed to discover, either in my own experience or by abstractly trying to visualize the prospect, any other more fruitful or practical methods of exploiting the present situation to our own or the public's advantage. Perhaps some of you, less stricken by circumstance, may have better accounts to render.

But, in closing, I will venture to allude to some thoroughly unsupported notions of my own as to what the bitter experiences we are now undergoing may come to mean to American librarianship in general, and what effect they and this whole period of hardship may remotely result in. For I have a suspicion that this particular point of time will one day loom large in the progress of the American public library as the close of an epoch in our history, a turning point leading to a great and revolutionary new development in our aims and objectives, our methods and accomplishments.

We have long perceived in the records of our past, which now embraces the better part of a century, two distinct divisions or chapters. The first is the period of preparation, the development of technical methods and equipment, of codification, standardization and the evolution of a corporate, some call it a professional, consciousness. It is the period that produced cataloging rules, classification codes and, toward the end, the library schools. It began as early as 1853, when Poole made the first dictionary catalog, and Jewett, then librarian of the Smithsonian Institution and soon after of the Boston Public Library, proposed the duplication and sale of catalog cards made from the copyright entries in Washington by means of stereotype matrixes of clay—a scheme that perished in the scornful laughter of his conservative contemporaries. It gave us Cutter's *Rules,* the *Decimal Classification* and Poole's *Index,* and incidentally, the greatest leaders we have ever had. And it ended at the close of the nineteenth century, with the appearance of the Library of Congress cards which largely superseded for most of us the necessity for the independent cultivation of the only branch of our craft that hitherto had approached the dignity of original research and scientific method. Our apparatus was completed, ready to hand, and curiously enough, we have contentedly employed it as it left the hands of the builders ever since, without either the urge or the enterprise to change or improve, beyond a few points of elaboration and adjustment. Our energies and our ingenuity, such as it was, were released and turned to other things, and our second chapter, headed Expansion, began.

The multiplication of public libraries and the extension of library service took on the proportions of a Movement. State agencies were established to promote the despatch of books to the remotest corners of their domain and to encourage every community, big and little, to undertake the maintenance and operation of a tax-supported library. Andrew Carnegie's lavish bounties gave added impetus to the movement which, on its own momentum, was already gaining ground with astonishing speed. The supply of librarians, never large, was soon exhausted, and the library schools, themselves growing in number, resorted to various short cuts: one-year courses, six-weeks' courses, correspondence courses—in an effort to meet the demand. Meanwhile the same urge to make books accessible to all people, which characterizes the American library ideal, manifested itself likewise in the gradual but steady relaxation of rules, regulations, limitations, under which books and the people were brought together. We have never gone as far as one early enthusiast thought we would, namely, to issue unlimited numbers of books to all comers without the irksome formality of even a borrower's card, but we have come as near to it as we dared. Open shelves, traveling libraries, book wagons, no-guarantors, these and other successive steps marked the gradual breaking down of all barriers and obstacles in the progress of the Library Movement. Twenty-six years ago I heard Melvil Dewey joyously exclaim: "Once the library was a reservoir; now it is a fountain." And so, indeed it is; a fountain that shoots its jets high into the air, its drops, blown about by every passing breeze, falling where they may, upon the just and the unjust, the worthy and unworthy. Such were the ideals and policies of our expansive era, a stage in our development that no one privileged to share in it would willingly have missed, nor retarded, nor opposed, if he could, but one which, I venture to believe, is now drawing to a close. And the results, measured quantitatively—the only way in which our efforts can be measured—were, of course, enormous. Vast numbers now crowd to our doors and come away carrying vast numbers of books, presumably to read. We do not know, and we have no way of telling, but at any rate, they do come back for more. And, statistically, we are able to tell a spectacular, and, as we have thought, an impressive tale, calculated to justify ourselves in our own minds, and our importance to our constituents. But there are also other results, not so gratifying to us, who keep them mostly to ourselves. There is the disproportionate ratio between recreational and other kinds of books issued to our readers, which, in spite of our persistent efforts at readers' guidance, and our growing sense of responsibility therefor, remains practically fixed. There is the awful waste, loss and destruction, which our mounting circulations entail, the heavy annual outlays—you cannot call them investment—of the public funds for books poured into the bottomless pit of replacement; the light irresponsibility with which the few obligations we still exact are regarded, and the burdensome and expensive routine imposed upon us in our effort to protect the public property in our custody, and to preserve our own self-respect. These, too, are results, and if we sometimes permit ourselves to harbor an uncomfortable doubt or two as to the complete implications of our mounting statistics, and begin to cast about for some more definite and fruitful—less vague and less expansive—policies and program with which to invest this Library Movement of ours, let me suggest again that these wholesome stirrings of discontent, both with our methods and our results, may be the first faint heralds of the new day in which we are to find a way to render a better account of our stewardship. Signs are not wanting that this is not altogether a vain speculation.

I had progressed about thus far in putting my thoughts in order when I picked up the latest LIBRARY JOURNAL and there came upon the pungent and incisive address delivered upon this very subject at the New Haven Conference by Clarence E. Sherman, Librarian of the Public Library of Providence, R. I. In justice to that splendid presentation of what, I am glad to note, I am not alone in regarding as a question of great and growing importance, I resist the temptation to quote. But I beseech you not to omit reading that excellent paper, one of the first contributions toward a discussion that will increasingly absorb our thoughts. Our colleague in Providence also refers to the characterization of the public library as a non-essential institution, and we know from recent reports that this appraisal has by implication been applied elsewhere. For example, we read that in Massachusetts the federal income tax officials have made such a ruling with regard to the salaries of librarians, although that ruling is still subject to confirmation from Washington. It is likewise, significant that Mr. C. B. Joeckel, in his fine study of public libraries in municipalities under city managers, found that this class of public administrators were by no means impressed with the importance of the public library in the corporate organizations under their control.

Perhaps all this does not constitute a grave indictment. Other city operated services, the parks and bathing beaches, trees, green grass and flower beds, would probably be subject to the same classification in the official scheme of things, though I suspect that there would be a much more audible and emphatic protest if these facilities were curtailed than any that was ever manifested over the suspension of library service.

Yet I feel that this pronouncement, even if it is neither final nor irrefutable, may be taken up by us as a challenge in the face of which we may well reconsider our whole position, its tendencies, responsibilities, and possibilities. We have passed through our exuberant and expansive youth, and now we have attained our seniority. It is my firm conviction that henceforth the course of our development will take an altogether new turn, and if some of the reactions borne in upon us by these Hard Times may serve to hasten our progress and clarify our view of what lies before us, that may be counted as one of the more enduring and beneficial results of our distressful experience.

I have no intention of carrying this line of speculation much farther, first, because I have already occupied too much of your time, and secondly, because I cannot claim the gifts of vision that would make my speculations profitable. But, in general, I believe that the next decade, or two or three, will find the American public library moving rapidly towards a position in the body politic of far more intrinsic importance than that which it now occupies. To do that it will abandon its chase after the multitude and turn back to the rediscovery of the individual. It will cease to reckon its patrons in millions and will rejoice in a constituency of thousands, many thousands, but each an individual with individual needs, aspirations and capacities, which the library will be organized to discover, to guide and to serve. A new kind of librarian will be needed, and will be found, for such service, fortified with the scholarship and careful training that will fit him for his high duties. He will have at his command a body of principles similar to that which fortifies the teacher, evolved by research and experimentation in which the sciences will play their large and important part. We have lately been made aware of the din of battle upon the issue of Librarianship as an art or a science. But while there is some doubt as to whether it was ever quite the one or need ever quite become the other, let us not be too inhospitable to the scientific spirit now timidly hailing our domicile, lumbering though the vehicle be in which it makes its first approaches. Education, too, was once a matter of inspiration and enthusiasm, a fine art, preparation for which was hampered by few indispensable qualifications. But Education never hesitated to avail itself of any aid offered either by the sciences or the arts, and has itself taken on not only the aspects but the dignity and prerogatives of a science. Recognizing and admitting the informalities and liberties in which our craft is chartered, the absence of control over the readers' desires, the freedom from disciple, curriculum, or doctrine, we may still point to our close kinship to the science of Education and so hope that some of its well-defined and well-directed principles may be found to apply to our aims and ideals as well. In these decades to come our kinship with that great science will be made more and more apparent. Our feeble and unorganized efforts in the great field of adult education, which gave us our first hope of better things to come, have disclosed possibilities in the intensive use of books which we cannot carry farther until we learn more both about the science of the teacher and the psychology of the learner. Who among us would not rather supply the books and the competent guidance for ten self-students than the latest novels for a thousand fiction readers? We have in our midst a group of workers, the Children's Librarians, who have evolved for themselves a body of theory and practice that comes perilously near the aspects of a science, both in methods and results. What we now need is a body of Adult

Librarians comparably grounded in their theory and practice, and so equipped to assure themselves of comparable results. But before we can have Adult Librarians we must first discover and isolate, codify and apply, the theories upon which their practices are to rest. There are such theories and they will be found.

And thus these remarks, which were begun as a brief consideration of the Library in Hard Times, conclude as the lengthy Lucubrations of an Old Fogy. As such they will, through your kindness, be indulgently received and, on their merits, lightly regarded. It is pleasant to know that they are not entirely sporadic, and that others dwelling upon the present and future estate of the American Public Library are reaching similar conclusions. Some day, I believe that we or our successors will look back upon these Hard Times as the end of an era and will recognize that the Hard Times themselves gave us the final, decisive, push over the divide. And, since prophesy becomes easier as one grows older, as well as safer, I will venture one more prediction. It is that, at the end of the next era, no one will be found to declare that the public library is not an essential institution.

The Spirit of the 1932 Library Budget

By WILLIAM ELDER MARCUS, JR.

President, Board of Trustees, Montclair, N. J., Public Library

THE WORLD as a whole is passing through the most desperate crisis which civilized man has yet witnessed. Even the institutions which have been regarded as most solidly intrenched are being tested as never before—political parties, financial structures, economic and monetary systems, and even the churches and religious sects. All are in a balance, struggling to justify their methods and to survive such tests as never before have been applied so ruthlessly at one time and in so many places and ways.

These relentless tests are being carried also to the very structure of our business enterprises, and have finally placed on trial even our educational and library systems, though Boards of Educations and Library Trustees may not yet be aware of the fact.

The purpose of this article is to inquire into and suggest the spirit which should activate trustees in the preparation of 1932 library budgets, while the world seems to be tottering and its sacred institutions are struggling to survive.

It is indeed a weighty responsibility upon the shoulders of library trustees to set up a budget this fall which is a fair balance between the ability of the municipality to support and the exigencies of the library system. There can be no doubt that duty prescribes the utmost of consideration of both elements, with preliminary conferences between the President of the Board of Trustees and the Mayor, so each may have an insight into the problems of the other.

The first and most important duty of the trustees will be to make an absolutely honest budget, in a spirit of including no item which could wisely be eliminated, and no item of a size which could be reduced without curtailing an important service or purchases of books essential to meet public demand. A budget conceived in this spirit should not be cut when it is studied by the Town Commissioners.

Such a spirit will prompt trustees to recommend no salary increases in 1932, and no sabbatical leaves involving paid substitutes.

The next consideration will logically be the size of the personnel—whether it can be reduced and still carry on the work in a reasonably efficient manner.

This in turn requires an examination of the circulation figures and of the demand by the public for other services expected of the library personnel. Has the business of the library remained the same through the period of depression or has it increased or decreased?

If the experience of the Montclair Library be any criterion, then there will be an increase everywhere. If the circulation and use of the library has diminished this year, it is the duty of the trustees to find some means of lessening the item of salaries, unless the personnel were so inadequate previously that the present force represents only sufficient strength adequately to carry on the work of the library.

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Then it will be necessary to solve the problem of what item to request for books and binding. Although this is always the most flexible item in the budget, it is the one on which trustees should compromise the least. It is not suggested that no reduction be made in this item, but only that too great a sacrifice be not made in this lifegiving asset of the library. The expenditure for new books and binding should remain close to the 1931 total if this year's circulation has shown a consistent gain over the previous year.

The balance of the items comprising the library budget offers little or no opportunity for economy. They do not require individual discussion; however they should be handled in the same spirit of strict and wise economy.

When the 1932 budget is submitted to the town officials, it would seem desirable to attach a brief statement setting forth the spirit in which the budget has been prepared, emphasizing whatever gross reduction has been accomplished, and explaining that any appropriation less than requested would represent a decrease in the customary services and in the efficient operation of the library.

The town governing body should consider reducing a library budget conceived in the spirit of such fair planning *only provided* it should become necessary to pare the budgets of the schools and all other municipal departments to conform to the ability of the town to raise the full amount required from taxation.

Building a Large Reference Collection in a Public Library

By KATHARINE TWINING MOODY

Chief, Reference Department, St. Louis, Missouri, Public Library

ASSOCIATED with the Board of Directors of the St. Louis Public Library, at one time, were two prominent lawyers[1]; one of them combined with his legal abilities the graciousness of a courtly southerly gentleman; the second had been Solicitor-General, under President Taft, and was distinguished further as a book collector. These men chanced to observe a large assortment of book titles awaiting a possible day of purchase for the reference shelves. The first member of the Board, wishing to show appreciation of the amount of labor represented in the assembling of this material, called the other member's attention to its extent, with the kindly comment: "This is a most creditable piece of work, is it not?" The book-collector looked steadily at the accumulation of cards, circulars and bookmen's catalogs for a moment or two in silence, then characteristically observed: "Do you call that work? I call it Heaven."

The concept of a library in former years might have been expressed in simple algebraic form: a library equals books; at present the equation would introduce another large factor, an endless discussion of methods. It seems a bit extraordinary that librarians should ever have allowed themselves to be beguiled from the absorbing and professional features of their jobs in order that they might elaborate the mechanical processes of the day's work; a group of clippings, for example relating to the Sioux or the Osage Indians, would have a distinct appeal; futile in comparison would appear a discussion of the size and brand of the scissors used in clipping them or the colors of the pencils required for dating, yet, beyond a doubt, with sufficient research, not to mention questionnaires, a satisfactory thesis could be developed along that line.

In point of fact the hours devoted by a librarian to book selection are indisputably the most diverting and strictly professional ones within his schedule; then he finds himself in harmony with a goodly succession of distinguished predecessors. So absorbed he may become in the process of selection, the public for whom he works, to all intents, is but dimly existent. He selects, nevertheless, with a subconscious and trained cognizance of values and of the definite groups of fortunate citizens who subsequently will find delight in these carefully chosen volumes.

Paper presented at College and Reference Section Round Table for Reference Librarians, A.L.A. Conference, 1931.

[1] John Fitzgerald Lee and Frederick William Lehmann.

The assembling of a collection that will serve the needs of a community, and ultimately be regarded by that community as an object of just pride, ordinarily requires a period of slowly moving years. Two factors enter directly into this growth; first, and most obvious, the fund at the disposal of the department for a purchase of books, and second the enthusiasm of the staff which determines the zeal in collecting, soliciting, clipping and preserving material that may be acquired without expenditure of money.

In the St. Louis Public Library a catalog of titles, that, for one reason or another, have been considered desirable for acquisition, may be extended far beyond the money available for immediate or even future purchase. It then may seem strange to the outsider that many titles purchased each year from this large reserve selection appear to have been chosen with slight regard for their popularity or general use. Precisely so, otherwise the library would acquire little or no basic material for the use of the more scholarly members of the community. While these extensive or monumental works are consulted by comparatively few persons, the joy of surprising a serious student justifies the librarian, and the general public, including those who usually discover what they are seeking in the *World Almanac,* in time acquires the habit of proclaiming the library a wonderful institution.

Principles of book selection within a group of the larger public libraries probably vary little though methods may seem to differ,—the library pocket book remains the determining influence. Disregarding the elements of age and wealth, individual character, according to the accepted creed of the profession, is attained successfully in so far as that library develops from a local standpoint, builds for the best interests of its immediate region and preserves the literature relating to that particular field or to a definite subject upon which the library intends to specialize.

In St. Louis there are three large divisions for research in addition to the main Reference Department, these are devoted to special interests; the Applied Science Department, the Art Department and the Municipal Reference Library. These names define their functions, and at this time little comment upon their collections can be attempted.

The line of distinction between a reference and a circulation collection becomes more indefinite as the library gains magnitude. The St. Louis Public Library occasionally falls heir to a general assortment of books, accompanied by the vexatious stipulation that all of the books shall be reserved for reference use; also miscellaneous titles, having some conceded value but limited interest, arrive with some frequency and are declined by unfeeling circulation authorities; these orphans usually, in the end, find shelter upon the more hospitable reference shelves. Standard works and classics are being duplicated gradually for the shelves of the Reference Department; there is also a reserve collection of unbound periodicals, containing about 100,000 separate numbers, chiefly duplicating bound volumes.

A reference division does not, or should not, under ordinary circumstances lose many books through legitimate use; generally speaking it is not subject to the rough usage accorded circulating books; reference books are not given special treatments of rain or jelly or "chewed by a dog," as one patron explained. For the most part they come to stay; that, in fact, is one of the comforting features of reference acquisitiveness; in spite of the greater sums spent for circulating books in the aggregate, the volume of the reference collection gains steadily in proportion. Providence, a wise and a just one, has decreed it, for few public libraries have the accumulations of decades, still less of centuries, back of them, few fall heir to fabulous collections—Providence reserves these for university libraries.

One notable exception to this rule has recently been made in St. Louis; through the philanthropy of Mr. George Fox Steedman, the Art Department has gained a collection of important works interesting to architects and all lovers of fine books. The gift included the building of a special room, his collection of books and an endowment. Among the treasures of this collection is a set of the works of Piranesi, in twenty-three volumes, formerly the property of the House of Commons Library, and the Haebler collection of German and Italian incunabula.

Speaking then for that region locally known as the "Forty-Ninth State," a simple outline of procedure adopted by the St. Louis Public Library will be sufficient to explain the efforts there made to meet the usual requirements of a general reference library and to fulfill its duty to future generations.

When purchasing for the reference departments three methods of selection are employed: First, Titles relating to subjects of current interest or works of obvious permanent value are selected, week by week, from publishers' announcements; Second, Book reviews, requests received from readers, circulars or special offers of bookmen suggest the purchase of more ambitious works, such as are of importance chiefly to the scholar or advanced student. Each year a portion of the book fund is appropriated thus for the acquisition of a few notable works that may conspicuously strengthen the collection; Third, Catalogs issued by dealers in secondhand books, both American and foreign, are examined with considerable care, and from these sources a variety of interesting items, some of considerable importance, and many out-of-print books find their way to the shelves of the library.

Such selection is determined at times by what appears to be an unusual opportunity to acquire titles relating to subjects upon which the Library's collection is weak or lacks monographic material, but more frequently by the fact that the works offered pertain to a field in which the Library is particularly interested. In our Main Reference Department special emphasis has been placed upon such spheres as the Mississippi Valley, Western Travel, English History and Topography, Archaeology, American Local History and Genealogy.

When titles are selected through the various processes that have been enumerated, but not immediately purchased, they form a reserve catalog of desiderata, to which previous mention has been made. Publications of societies, files of periodicals and miscellaneous serials must be mentioned at this time with the mere statement that long subscription and donation lists of publications covering almost every activity and interest of society, return several thousand volumes to the library shelves yearly.

Private donations alternately bring dismay and gladness. In spite of the trash and the many volumes received in a pathetically dilapidated condition, these gifts are hospitably received. The Reference Department combs these offerings, as they arrive, and thereby gains a variety of literature of considerable value and interest, many curiosities and occasionally a real treasure. Our Historical Collection of Children's Literature has been quite largely developed by this means.

As a depository the St. Louis Public Library, in connection with many others, receives the publications of the United States Government in their entirety, and parenthetically it may be stated that these volumes are and always have been seriously cared for in order that they may be quickly available for service, as designed. More than 5200 volumes of the original "Sheep Set" have been rebound, the net result being satisfaction and no red dust.

Documents of the various states distant from the Mississippi River are selected quite severely, emphasis being placed upon those relating to education, history, geology, mining, agriculture and special sociological matters. From the states bordering the Mississippi a larger selection of documents is desired, and an attempt is made to secure all publications of the state of Missouri in duplicate. From a group of representative cities are solicited for the main library a variety of publications, especially those relating to education, health, transportation, business, city planning and penal matters; for the Municipal Reference Library a much larger scope is attempted.

Closely related to this literature is another rapidly growing store of strength; the newspapers of the country are certainly but a step beyond the larger libraries in the preservation of loose material, such as clippings from magazines and newspapers, portraits, illustrations and maps. An accumulation amounting to half of a million or more items of this order in the St. Louis Library is regarded as no small asset by the Reference Department, and its gathering is due chiefly to alert wits and industrious half-hours when the public is applying absent treatment. The public is quite addicted to the use of these clippings and associated articles, wholly justifying the time devoted to them.

The librarian and all who select books for divisions of the library, of necessity, place a stamp of personality upon the book collection. However strong the intention to extend the growth in normal or uniform directions, the personal element dictates emphasis. This is proper, even fortunate, otherwise all libraries over the land, having similar bank accounts, would practically duplicate each other and the charm of individuality would vanish to a considerable degree. In spite of their common origin and purpose, it is this very dissimilarity that invites attention.

To give a single illustration: the shelves of the St. Louis Public Library have been colored, in turn, by Mr. Crunden's enthusiastic interest in matters relating to social science and his intense love of pure literature and by Dr. Bostwick through his attention to music and the natural sciences. Libraries must be built for scholars; they must have individuality if they would have atmosphere and radiate culture; they must be protected if they would serve.

It is in this connection that I should like to outline a plan for possible future experiment. This project would provide separate collections for those who, no longer juvenile in years, are in soul and mind unable to appreciate the whole value of a book. This first aid or probation department might be dignified as "adult education in respect for the physical book," but for convenience we may designate it a "Junior Reference Room."

Thus segregated several disturbing elements would be given service while earning their right to a higher student privilege. Of course this would not mean that these persons would be barred altogether from the main room and general shelves, but rather encouraged to work elsewhere. In this Junior Room, or near of access, a fair collection of books might be assembled, including the necessary encyclopedias, dictionaries, indexes, certain sets of periodicals, particularly those devoted to questions of the day, and duplicated upon the general reference shelves; popular debate material and such additional classes as experience might suggest.

To libraries having a general reference room, this plan seems to offer relief from the confusion of debating classes and many other school investigators. Supervision and restriction of books would be possible and finally a wholesome restraint might be administered. At present the conquest of the Reference Department by a modern army of irresponsible young persons, who are chiefly in search of references to impress an instructor, is complete. These so-called students, after a few moments' use, toss volumes aside or pile them precariously after the fashion of the Tower of Pisa, and seldom so skillfully balanced.

The effort necessary to develop and maintain a large reference library would afford considerable satisfaction did the beneficiaries not menace it to an alarming degree; libraries may again face the alternative of chaining their books or chaining the public. For some time libraries seem to have preserved a serene attitude, having presumably a fantastic faith that an atmosphere of books unaided would finally accomplish regeneration. Again libraries and schools, having a mutual recognition of the importance of books in education, have been joining hands to the extent of encouraging the circulation of these books; it would now seem reasonable to suppose that those educational institutions might get together sufficiently to promote a respect for the books themselves.

A group of teachers, working toward the goal of advanced degrees, were a bit startled recently when a professor, outlining for them his plan of investigation, abruptly propounded, I am told, the following questions: First, "Why is it that a majority of the prisons in this country are populated by the alumni of colleges and high schools?"; Second, "If it might be in your power to discover either a cure for cancer or a cure for dishonesty, which would you elect to achieve?"

Libraries and colleges evidently have a mutual duty. If libraries offer temptation through unguarded shelves, theoretically ideal enough, and an unrestricted use of valuable books, they are contributing to the present deplorable conditions, as well as the destruction of their collections. The greater mass of the human race is scarcely beyond its childhood in attainment, cultural or moral, and must be so recognized. The fond parents of Caesar doubtless rendered unto Caesar the babe only the things that properly belonged unto him at that period.

At the present time there appears to be a growing tendency upon the part of libraries and schools to move in droves, to pursue a consuming idea to the finish. To me it seems as if public libraries were helplessly following a lead in an age of superficiality, worshiping quantity and statistics, failing in originality and losing sight of a rare talent, the ability to lead and to charm through independence of ideas and methods. A program, a pattern, framed for all leads to deadly monotony.

Such libraries, of course, will be useful; banks are useful, uniform, as alike as peas in a pod, but it is plain that no inspiration is to be derived from a prolonged stay within any one of them. Naturally eternal compromise faces a library but that should not imply a loss of its individuality. With due appraisal of the discoveries of others, surely no institution need be unduly concerned over the methods adopted by another. In the parlance of the day, it need not swallow the hook, bait and line unless that course combines well with its own planned bill of fare.

To use, figuratively, a favorite word in the vocabulary of artists, chiaroscuro might be applied for the restoration of a genial student atmosphere. To gain this objective of atmosphere and perspective, one that should characterize a public as well as a university library, application of tact and humor, upon a basis of sound sense, might be used, the too obtrusive features of flaming youth softened, and the dark shadows of dull learning brightened, the whole enlivened. This obviously has been a plea for freedom, for enthusiasm, for originality. May the libraries, great or small, build confidently according to their separate visions.

On a lone winter evening, when the frost has wrought a silence.—Keats

Building a Large Reference Collection in a Public Library

By MARILLA WAITE FREEMAN

Librarian, Main Library, Cleveland, Ohio, Public Library

TO BUILD "A Large Reference Collection in a Public Library" in fifteen minutes, the time granted me for this exploit, is so breathless an undertaking that I hasten to delimit my field of action to the library I have known best for the last nine years. The first question in such a project would be "What have we to start with?" We of the Cleveland Main Library found ourselves, a few years ago, with one distinguished special collection, the John Griswold White Collection of Folklore and Orientalia, and the embryo of others, but otherwise with the average stock of a large popular library. We had and have a "divisional system" by which reference and circulating books were shelved together in ten divisions, corresponding roughly to those of the Decimal Classifications, each with now its own reading room and stack, with a large General Reference Division serving as a coordinating unit.[1] We had an earnest-minded and enthusiastic group of division heads to aid in our project systematically; a quarterly book-quota to divide among them; and a desiderata fund set aside for special opportunities to secure out-of-print and second hand material and serial sets.

To fit one's collections to the needs of one's community forces a second question, "What is our community?" I suppose our city of Cleveland, in its library constituency and its needs, does not differ greatly from many another city in what Professor Ellsworth Huntington of Yale University has described as the nation's belt of "maximum energy." We like to think of ourselves as a great industrial city which is at the same time a center of culture and a kind of seething sociological laboratory where all sorts of social experiments are in the brew. Industrially, our harbor on Lake Erie, where iron ore from the northwest meets coal from the southeast, has made us a metallurgical center, with 15 per cent of the city's output accounted for by primary production of iron and steel, 20 per cent more by motor vehicles and their parts, and the rest gone into that diversification of production at once our pride and our danger, which enables us to boast that two-thirds of the 350 basic industries of the United States are represented in Cleveland. In our efforts to build up a strong Technology Division (now 80,000 volumes, of which 50,000 are for reference use) to meet these varied industrial interests, with a Foreign Literature Division to take care of the great foreign population they have attracted, a Municipal Reference branch in our City Hall,[2] and all the other divisions needed, we do not perhaps differ greatly from other large city libraries, nor has our building-up procedure differed in most of its routines,[3] save perhaps in duplication of material. We are firm believers in giving fuller service, and incidentally in winning public goodwill, by purchasing circulating copies of reference books, and reference copies of circulating books. Few books are too sacred to lend for an hour at need, while the presence of a reference copy of a popular play, or college text for reading in the library dulls the edge of the plaint "I never can find what I want." Then, too, the rapidly appreciating values of first editions, in the modern book world, discovers upon our reference shelves many a Millay or a Strachey which we bought at publication price but a few years before, now preserved to be a genuine collectors' item.

The bibliographical core of our whole reference collection is our General Reference Division, which is constantly strengthening its resources in the general field of bibliographies, indexes, general publications of learned societies, bound periodicals, maps, encyclopedic material of all types. Much that I shall say would apply as well to this division, but in the effort to be brief, I must confine myself to describing our building-up in two typical fields, that of current material, as exemplified in our year and a half old Business Information Bureau, and that of the more scholarly acquisitions of our History Division and White Collection.

While the function of the Business Information Bureau is to give service and to coordinate the business resources of the whole library rather than to accumulate a large col-

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Paper presented at College and Reference Section, Round Table for Reference Librarians, A.L.A. Conference, 1931.

[1] Freeman, M. W. Cleveland's divisional plan for reference work. LIBRARY JOURNAL 50:843-47. October 15, 1925.

[2] Clark, Mary H. Public library service to city officials. LIBRARY JOURNAL 56:423-426. May 15, 1931.

[3] For typical routine, see Wyer, J. I. *Reference Work.* A.L.A. 1930. p. 65.

lection of its own, yet certain classes of books, trade directories, all business and financial services, have been transferred to it from other parts of the Library. Alertness in discovery and follow-up has brought together quantities of pamphlets, reports, documents, clippings, surveys, house organs, and corporation data, and has demonstrated that much of the most valuable reference material may be gathered free of charge or at small cost. The way to build up a business reference collection, remarks the head of the Bureau, is to read what the business man reads, on the principle, I would add, of the model wife who declared that whatever else she neglected she must read the *Saturday Evening Post*, in order to know what was going on in her husband's mind.

Above all things the business division staff must read the newspapers. Something in this morning's paper may be a better answer than anything else to this morning's question. The *Wall Street Journal*, the *Business Week*, the *Nation's Business*, the *Harvard Business Review* are among the periodicals to be scanned regularly by a business or economics division. *Domestic Commerce*, published weekly by the United States Department of Commerce, lists new additions to the library of the Department often two or three weeks before they appear through the usual channels. Trade magazines and lists of publications of trade associations mention titles not found elsewhere. Outstanding trade papers in the fields represented in one's city are essential. It is helpful to check the Library with a list of local industries to see how many are adequately represented by books, trade papers, and proceedings of trade associations.

Perhaps the chief value of our divisional system is that it permits of specialization on the part of the division staffs in their reading, and that each member may be made to a certain extent responsible for a given field, including the reading and checking of the magazines covering that field.

To know what is going on in her clients' minds, the business librarian must go to statistical, banking, retailing, advertising association meetings. The same principle applies, of course, to the sociology, the technology, and other "specializing" librarians. And since Cleveland has the boon, or in overcrowded weeks, the bane, of being a great convention city and a highly organized conference luncheon city, rare is the day that an armful of loot, the latest literature on some one or other of these subjects, does not come back to the Library to enrich its reference collections.

If I seem to dwell too enthusiastically upon current material, it is because at this point the large collection is apt to be weakest, if it is no one's business to "go after" such material, and when secured, to see that it is used. Pamphlet, bulletin, document, periodical and other unbound matter is, not supplanting, no, but certainly supplementing books in many types of reference work, and often the supplement should be consulted first. Begin with the latest word, and work back, is a fairly safe rule, in all except historical research, and often valid there. It is necessary to build a staff which can recognize this fact, and not indolently make the card catalog its first and often only resort. The vertical file should be a down-to-the-minute and most attractive rival.

Build to indexes, and make your own where others are lacking, is another commandment in the reference builder's decalogue. Needless perhaps to enumerate as building foundations the many Wilson indexes, yet where should we be without them, their forerunners and contemporaries? Our General Reference Division's wealth bases as solidly upon them as upon its extensive bibliographical material, while the backbone of our technical and scientific collection is its magazine and serial files, their engineering and Wilson indexes. Many of these indexes are supplemented and kept down to date in the Cleveland Public Library, as doubtless elsewhere, and many others created to meet our own needs. Our temporary card supplement to the *Readers' Guide* and other indexes often saves the day in the Periodical Division. The Education Section of our Sociology Division supplements the *Education Index* by its own analytical indexes of courses offered in colleges and special schools, on all subjects from optometry to naval architecture; of vocational material in all parts of the Library; and of educational serials. The extensive poetry indexes fathered by the Literature and Foreign Literature divisions save hours of search, when Granger[4] fails us; and our subject index to fiction has become an indispensable reference aid.

Recurring to business, one of our newest "indexes" is the *Bulletin of the Business Information Bureau*[5], which lists and annotates each month under a specific subject, available business literature and sources of information. Subjects covered range from "Retail Trade" or "Cleveland Business," to "Marketing and Distribution." A complete file of the *Bulletin* beginning with January 1930 serves as an index to the chief sources from which the Bureau has built and is building its collection. The June issue of the *Bulletin* is on "Doing

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[4] Granger, Edith. *Index to Poetry and Recitations.* McClurg, 1918. *Supplement*, 1919-1928. McClurg, 1929.

[5] *Bulletin, Business Information Bureau.* Cleveland Public Library. Address Rose L. Vormelker, Business Research Librarian.

Business with Russia." In advance of publication, a tentative list of material to be included, and desired, was sent to various authorities, including the Soviet Union's Amtorg Trading Corporation, asking suggestions, additions, and new material. The results were interesting and I doubt whether many of the items included are as yet brought together in any other single printed list.

Today all eyes are turned upon Russia, though one of Russia's eyes is on us. In Cleveland at least it is up to us to know "all about" that startling country. Mr. Austin, builder of Austingrad, is a Clevelander. A Cleveland firm of industrial engineers is handling the erection of the $237,000,000 steel mill project in the Ural Mountain district. Our "Technology," whether or no, has furnished valuable aid to the building projects of the five-year plan. Our Readers' Adviser (who has, by the way, in her room, one of our choicest small "made-reference" collections), our Foreign Literature and History divisions report that the interest in Russian history, civilization and language has today caught up with the universal interest in Russian literature; that every borrowable book on Russia, every borrowable Russian grammar, is off the shelves. The last copy went to one of the 180 Americans who are to build power houses on the Dnieper River and in the mining districts of Siberia.

Our History Division, capitalizing intense popular and scholarly interest, is building up a Russian collection, in English primarily, but also with Russian source material, in the following order: (1) Everything obtainable on the Piatiletka or Five-Year Plan; (2) Background material necessary to understand the present situation; e.g. everything included in a modest bibliography on the Revolution of 1917 in the *Journal of Modern History* for December 1930; (3) Specialization in the early revolutionary movements in Russia.

Another subject of great popular interest is the Fascist movement in Italy. Through the local Italian consul the History Division has obtained from Fascist publication headquarters in Italy a great deal of material, propaganda if you wish, which if 400 years old would cost tremendously and will be invaluable in the future, as it is useful in the present. (For the Fascist period, the bibliographies in *Making the Fascist State*[6] have been useful.) Our Italian collection, launched in 1925, when the lira was at a low point, has concentrated particularly on the period of the Risorgimento partly because of post-war interest in nineteenth century history and in large part because of its appeal to our large Italian population. In Italian historical serials, of which we now have fifty-five, we are strongest on Southern Italy and Sicily. Here, as elsewhere, the Union Serial[7] and Foreign Serials[8] lists are and will be invaluable.

In building up a balanced history collection, now 110,000 volumes, the first step several years ago, was a community and regional survey in the joint effort, on the principle described by Mr. J. Christian Bay[9], "to coordinate our selections with those of our sister-libraries," in the "voluntary, organized cooperation" of which Dr. Putnam[10] spoke at the recent dedication of the Sterling Memorial Library. In American history, a fine scholar's library was being built up by the Western Reserve Historical Society and by the Graduate School of Western Reserve University, while but two hours by air to the west of us were to be found the superb Americana collections of the William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan. It seemed sensible therefore that while the Public Library has since rounded out an extensive collection in American history, it should avoid duplication of rare and expensive items already in the libraries mentioned, and develop for the scholar the history of countries not already covered in the city.

The suggestion of an English history collection, already started by much fine source material, including the Rolls and Chronicles series, through the generosity of Mr. White, was naturally welcomed by the Historical Society and the University as a background for their American history. As distinction can however be had only through specialization, "something of everything, but everything of something," we concentrated especially on the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, emphasizing in particular the Jacobite pretenders, plots and rebellions, not only because of their romantic interest but because these are the theme of many ballads in the White Collection. Later the field was extended to include the whole of Britain. Using the splendid bibliographies of Gross[11] and Terry[12] a strong collection is being built up of British historical serials, with now nearly two hundred sets in British local history.

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[6] Schneider, H. W. *Making the Fascist State.* Oxford Univ. Press. 1928.

[7] *Union List of Serials in Libraries of the United States and Canada.* H. W. Wilson Co., 1927.

[8] *List of Serial Publications of Foreign Governments,* edited by Winifred Gregory, to be published by the H. W. Wilson Co.

[9] Bay, J. C. Coordination in the Purchase of Books. *Libraries.* 34:9-12, January, 1929.

[10] Putnam, Herbert. The University and the Library. LIBRARY JOURNAL. 56:347-349, April 15, 1931.

[11] Gross, Charles. *Sources and Literature of English History from the Earliest Times to About* 1845. 2d ed., rev. and enl. London, Longmans, 1915.

[12] Terry, C. S. *Catalogue of the Publications of Scottish Historical and Kindred Clubs and Societies . . .* 1780-1908. Glasgow, MacLehose, 1909. This is supplemented by Cyril Matheson's book of the same title, covering 1908-1927. Aberdeen, Milne and Hutchison, 1928.

Realizing the modern emphasis on the economic side of history, the Sociology Division supplements the historical collections with legislative records, treaties and other documents giving the economic background, while the division of Philosophy and Religion builds solidly its church history for the same periods, when church and state were so intricately interwoven. All these divisions check some seventy English catalogs regularly; in addition annual lists of wants go to dealers in England and Scotland for quotations.

Incidentally, if anyone doubts the practical value to a popular library of these scholarly collections, he may be surprised, as we often are ourselves, in looking over the daily record of reference and research questions and topics kept in each division, to see how many of them draw upon these resources from the past. They are a necessary balance and background to the excessive immediacy of such services as the Business Information Bureau. It is for this reason that I have used these two divisions as types. (The daily question records to which I refer may be mentioned, in passing, as prime aids to building, in their indication of subjects on which material is inadequate.)

From my references to the White Collection, you will have guessed to what an extent many of our divisions have based their specializations on the resources and interests of that collection; and on Mr. White's generous gifts to their own collections as well, for Mr. White was that perfect donor who desires that whatever he gives be placed at the point of maximum usefulness. The Fine Arts Division, for example, has profited largely by his generosity in such fields as those of folk-song, of Oriental music, and to some extent of Oriental art, though this last field is largely left to the library of the Art Museum.

In his purchase of Orientalia begun in the same year in which the United States took over the Philippines, Mr. White endeavored to bring to the people of Cleveland, and indeed to the American people, first hand information as to the thoughts, religions, customs, antiquities and languages of the peoples of the East, specializing in works by Orientals themselves with all translations obtainable. Early India and Arabic literature are particularly strong, and in lesser-known fields, the literatures of the Ceylonese, the Chinese Moslems, and the Jagataic Turk.

In the Collection's second field, that of folklore, are included manners, customs, superstitions, proverbs, ballads and folk-songs of all peoples, voyages and early travels. The gypsy material is particularly notable, and the chess collection, a personal hobby, which Mr. White bequeathed on his death, is said to be the finest in the world, numbering over 12,000 volumes. The English ballad material, while surpassed by the great Harvard collection fostered by Child and Kittredge, is notable enough to have been made the subject of a ninety page annotated catalog[13], published within the last fortnight by the Library Club of Cleveland and Vicinity, and now available for purchase at the Cleveland Public Library. The White Collection as a whole includes now nearly 75,000 volumes in some 2,000 languages and dialects, though an adequate working proportion of the collection is in English.

It was at a moment thirty-two years ago that Mr. White's munificence began, when a tremendous cut in library appropriations had led Mr. Brett to confide his dismay to Mr. White as an old friend, not then on the Library Board, though later its president till his death. If a like dismaying situation seems everywhere to threaten our "building-up" plans today, I can only express my hope and belief that in every community a frank statement of our needs, backed by the growing recognition of what the public library means to its city, can discover to us such friends, and public support as well.

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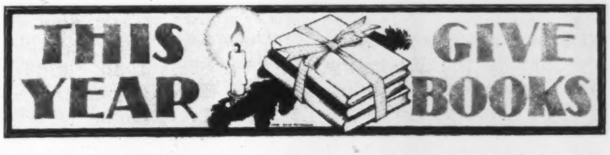
[13] *English Ballads and Songs in the John G. White Collection of Folklore and Orientalia of the Cleveland Public Library, and in the Libraries of Western Reserve University* . . . Compiled by Thomas J. Holmes, Librarian, William G. Mather Library, and Gordon W. Thayer, Librarian, John G. White Collection, Cleveland Public Library. Library Club of Cleveland and Vicinity, 1931. $2.00. Address Mrs. W. R. Watterson, Cleveland Public Library.



Display Streamer for Christmas. Available Gratis to Libraries, at the National Association of Book Publishers, 347 Fifth Ave., New York City

THE
LIBRARY JOURNAL

December 1, 1931

Editorial Forum

AMERICA in these days of depression has time to think and to learn and it is a wise purpose, therefore, that libraries, as now suggested, should address themselves to thinking America. The American Library Association has been advised by the President's Committee on Unemployment, of which Walter S. Gifford is chairman, to carry out a proposed plan for the emphasis of: (1) Books for workers which will enable them better to prepare themselves for their future work; (2) Books for those who seek to "think through" the present difficulties, social, economic and the like, as well as (3) Healthy diversional reading for all groups. This plan covers a wide scale of human effort and present unemployment, ranging from the wage-earner to the "white collar" man and his employer and further develops the one thought foremost in the minds of librarians to be of real service in a time of real need. It may prove that books in this critical time of peace will become as usefully helpful and effective as they were in time of war and thus the A. L. A. may look backward to these hard times and its efforts for their mitigation with the same pride with which it now looks back upon its work during the war. It may be added that Miss Josephine Rathbone as president of the American Library Association felt extremely gratified that the committee, in the conversations during which this idea was worked out, has had such keen and full appreciation of the part that books may play in the present crisis of the nation's life.

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IN HIS PAPER on the library and hard times, which is naturally pessimistic, Mr. Roden of Chicago makes one optimistic suggestion which bears in an important way on the problems presented by the Executive Board's statement. He suggests that the library system has passed through two eras and faces a third, which we may respectively call the era of organization, the era of extension and the era of selection. In other words, libraries must consider the qualitative rather than the quantitative results of their work and not go wild over gratifying statistics of circulation. There is certainly a growing tendency to emphasize the importance of reaching more adequately those who can use books to the best advantage instead of scattering effort to reach the greatest number. Mr. Roden voices the hope that the consolation in present discouragement may be that it will lead to greater concentration and greater real results, though the difficulty will always remain that it is impossible to gauge qualitative results in this as in every other field.

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THE HARD TIMES have certainly emphasized the need of careful budget-making and trustees are hard put to make both ends meet. As the article on another page from a trustee repeats, there is need of more money rather than less money to do what the libraries should be able to do. But facts are facts and budgets must be pared to meet the emergency. A library cannot issue bonds to make up a deficit. It is a serious dilemma whether to cut down expenditures for books—the basis of all library activities—or cut down the staff which must serve the public in the many ways to which the public is now used. Chicago has had the hardest problem of all in the reduction of its budget by $400,000, resulting in the drop of the book purchase account from $230,000 to $100,000 and the dismissal of more than two hundred junior assistants from its staff of a thousand. This last resort, which is necessitated in many libraries, both adds to non-employment and lessens for the whole body of the unemployed the comforting benefits which libraries could give them. Sadly the fact must be faced that there is no alternative which can truly solve the difficult problem.

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THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, one of the strongest and most representative which the A. L. A. has had, has done wisely in presenting through the *Bulletin* the detailed statement, covering twelve pages, of the functions and enterprises of the A. L. A. on which the opinions of the membership are asked. This questionnaire referendum, with no less than eighty-six points, is even more extensive than the referendum ballot in California elections in which too often "the forest cannot be seen because of the trees" and the voters are perplexed by the multitude of details on which they are asked to vote. The statement is in itself a remarkable presentation of the multifarious work of the A. L. A. which has been largely covered from the grants of the Carnegie Corporation and some parts of which may have to be given up when the A. L. A. must stand on the firm ground of the revenue from its now large membership and the income from the liberal endowments which it has received. It is therefore most desirable that each active member should promptly give time and thought to the problems which the Executive Board present and record his vote on the questions concerning which he has positive opinions either for or against, even if there is no attempt to cover all the points at issue. The tabulation of such a vote, giving the number of pros and cons on each point, would be most enlightening if a really large proportion of the membership will do their duty by the Association.

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PRESIDENT BUTLER of Columbia University in a recent address recorded himself in opposition to the creation of a federal Department of Education and the appointment of a Secretary for Education as a member of the Cabinet. His important point is that a member of the Cabinet is always of the same political party as the President and therefore that the appointment is political and thus politics would enter the educational system from the top. The Bureau of Education has so far been rather free from political relation, yet there may be danger that it might be made a political machine as the Post Office Department had been in the past and to some extent so remains. Librarians have for the most part been in favor of the proposed development as a recognition of the importance of education and within educational work for the library. But there is much to be said on both sides of the question and more thought should be given to the matter than it has so far received from the critical side.

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BOOK THIEVERY, it must regretfully be admitted, has been assuming alarming proportions in spite of all efforts to "watch out." There is not a little hesitancy to bring the facts to the fore because some consider that they would only stimulate new thieves to make new depredations. This scarcely seems good reasoning. The thefts are not merely of rare books but of ordinary books in quantity. The thievery at Harvard, in fact, was less of rare books from the Widener collection such as could easily be identified, than of a considerable number of books taken mostly from the general or departmental collections by a person now under arrest, a graduate student working for a Ph.D. and under that cloak appearing an innocent and harmless reader. A recent paragraph in *Time* exaggerated the thefts to a total of $200,000 and was otherwise inaccurate, but the stealing has been sufficiently large and important to call for drastic action and severe punishment. Quite recently a special official engaged by one of the New York Library systems to trace lost books has within six months recovered not only hundreds but more than a thousand volumes as clues were followed which led to discoveries, outside as well as within the city, of quantities of books belonging to several of the main and branch libraries throughout Greater New York. To what extent this is the result of organized crime, a thievocracy of the usual ring order, is yet to be discovered.

Library Chat

Book Wagons Not New

The Suggestion that book wagons are not new is presented in a chapter entitled "Ahead of Their Times" in Caroline Snedeker's latest book, *The Town of The Fearless*, a story of New Harmony, Indiana. The section reads as follows:

"An early item of the Community history is the marriage of Thomas Say and Lucy Sistaire.

"Lucy was not only apt at natural history, but a skilled artist, as well. In those daily sketching tours on which Lesueur took his class she was the 'best scholar.'

"And now Say began to sum up his knowledge and classification of shells into a book: *Say's Conchology*. Lucy drew the pictures of the shells. Then Thibaut engraved them. The engravings were then returned to Lucy, who colored them each with delicate water colors. The result is as if each shell, or perhaps the fairy spirit of it, had dropped upon the page. The book in two volumes was printed and bound by the pupils of the School of Industry in Harmony. Then it was put upon a little wagon and sold throughout the state, for a dollar and a half—precious pictures and all.

"Oh, book wagons that set out from libraries to country districts, you are not new at all!"

Librarian Authors

EDITH BEEBE CARHART, librarian, Bellingham, Washington, Public Library, is a Hoosier, born at Terre Haute, Indiana, and living at Greencastle, Indiana, during early childhood, where her father held the position of Professor of English and Oratory at De Pauw University. Later he accepted the position of President of the State Normal School at St. Cloud, Minnesota, where the family lived for five years. Then for ten years at Mayville, North Dakota, where Dr. Carhart held the position of President of the State Teachers College.

Miss Carhart took the Latin, Manual Training course in high school, having a decided preference for the things which her brothers did to the things a girl was supposed to do. After graduation from the State Teachers College of North Dakota she taught for three years, then took a one year special course in library work, under the librarian of the State College in North Dakota, to fit herself for the position of librarian at her Alma Mater. Her father not having a taste for the business administration of the school turned that part of his work over to his daughter, who became practically the Business Executive of the institution in addition to her work as librarian. After five years, she left this position to go West, to Alaska, Oregon and Washington where she held responsible positions as Principal of schools, returning to Bellingham for a vacation in 1920. The Library Board of Fairhaven were in need of an assistant for the Library, and she was given this position in November, 1920. The position of librarian became vacant the next summer and she accepted that position in the following September.

Miss Carhart has to her credit a number of magazine articles and has always been interested in newspaper work. While in North Dakota she acted as correspondent for the *Minneapolis Journal*, the *St. Paul Dispatch*, the *Fargo Forum* and the *Grand Forks Times*.

In 1926 she compiled *The History of Bellingham* because, as she states in the preface, "One of the demands made upon public libraries which is everywhere difficult to meet is the request for something on the early history of the community." The compilation of articles from old newspapers, city directories, etc. was Miss Carhart's way of meeting this demand.

1930 saw new activity in the Angora Rabbit Wool Industry with a demand upon the library for books on this subject. None was to be had except one published in England which was over the head of the beginner. This Angora Wool Rabbit happened to be a hobby with Miss Carhart so she wrote a manual on the subject which she has sold very successfully to public libraries in Canada and the United States. Miss Carhart is a very successful breeder of the Angora Wool Rabbit and writes us that she keeps her good health by this outdoor interest. In addition to her work as librarian Miss Carhart has been, since its organization in 1927, the secretary of the International Peace Park Association which expects to acquire and maintain an International Park at the Peace Portal, Blaine, Washington, the only Arch in the world built to peace.

Edith Beebe Carhart

"No, I do not join any clubs," Miss Carhart writes, "though I am eligible to the Daughters of the Revolution and the Colonial Dames. The only clubs I belong to is a local club of Knott-Holes and the Soroptimist Club of which I am Chairman of the Board of Directors."

The December Forecast

A check list of books of general interest whose publication dates fall during the coming month

History, Travel, Biography, Literature

December 1

Allen, Frederick L. ONLY YESTERDAY.
The story of the nineteen twenties. Harper. $3.

Crewe, Lord. LORD ROSEBERY.
Biography of former Prime Minister of Great Britain. Harper. $5.

Guedalla, Philip. WELLINGTON.
The life of the Iron Duke. Harper. $4.

Stewart, George R., jr. BRET HARTE.
Biography. Houghton. $5.

Tucker, S. M. TWENTY-FIVE MODERN PLAYS.
Harper. $5.

December 3

Shay, Frank. INCREDIBLE PIZARRO.
Biography of the conqueror of Peru. Mohawk. $3.50.

December 7

Spratling, William. LITTLE MEXICO.
Day-by-day life in Mexico. Cape. $4.

December 14

Baker, Ray Stannard. WOODROW WILSON: LIFE AND LETTERS. Vol. III, Governor; Vol. IV, President.
Two new volumes which cover up to the death of Mrs. Wilson and the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand. Previous two volumes treated of his youth and his Princeton days. Doubleday. $10.

During December

Auslander, Joseph. Trans. THE SONNETS OF PETRARCH.
These Sonnets form one of the world's great groups of love lyrics. Longmans. $2.50.

Baker, H. C. Ed. CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN POETS. Vol. 4.
A collection of poems written by present day poets of America. Vol. 4. Stratford. $3.50.

Garnett, Edward. THE TRIAL OF JEANNE D'ARC.
And other plays. Viking. $3.

Read, Herbert and Dobrée, Bonamy. AN ANTHOLOGY OF ENGLISH PROSE.
Designed as an attractive volume to read and handle rather than as a text-book. Viking. $3.

Miscellaneous Non-Fiction

December 1

Southard, Frank A. AMERICAN INDUSTRY IN EUROPE.
Detailed survey of the extent and nature of the migration of American industry to Europe. Houghton. $3.

Simonds, Frank H. CAN EUROPE KEEP THE PEACE?
By the author of *They Won the War*. What is happening in every country in Europe. Harper. $3.

December 11

Mazur, Paul. NEW ROADS TO PROSPERITY.
The crisis and some ways out. Viking. $2.

December 15

Ferry, E. S. APPLIED GYRODYNAMICS.
Presents modern and understandable methods to the engineer and student having the mathematical equipment of the ordinary graduate of engineering or physics. Wiley.

Haven, G. W. MECHANICAL FABRICS.
Will interest purchasing agents as well as jobbers in mechanical fabrics. Wiley.

Newcomb, Rexford. OUTLINES OF THE HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE. Part 1.
Useful as a digest of the lectures, a bibliography, and a laboratory manual. Wiley.

During December

Otto, Rudolf. MYSTICISM EAST AND WEST.
The products of three distinct branches of learning as a synthetic whole. Macmillan. $3.50.

Ramsey, L. W., and Lawrence, C. H. OUTDOOR LIVING ROOM.
How to plan or rearrange the home grounds correctly at small expense. Macmillan.

Salaman, Malcolm C. FINE PRINTS OF THE YEAR 1931.
An annual review of contemporary etching and engraving. Minton Balch. $10.

Wyche, Charles D. GOD, SCIENCE AND THE BIBLE.
The purpose of this book is to harmonize the truths of the *Bible* and the truths of Science. Stratford. $2.50.

Fiction

December 1

Barnes, Margaret Ayer. WESTWARD PASSAGE.
Seven crucial days in the life of a woman of middle years. Houghton. $2.50.

December 7

Voinova, A. I. SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES.
A Russian novel. Cape. $2.50.

December 10

Milnes, Benjamin Birch. HUNGRY HOLLOW.
A small-town, Catskill tale. Dorrance. $2.

December 15

McFee, William. HARBOURMASTER.
De luxe edition of this tale of the sea, the regular edition of which will make its appearance on January 2. Doubleday. $3.

Library Organizations

New Hampshire State Meeting

THE FORTY-SECOND meeting of the New Hampshire Library Association was held at Hanover, Sept. 9-11, with the president, Miss Clara E. Smith of Nashua, presiding. There were over one-hundred in attendance, and all parts of the state were represented. The opening session on Wednesday evening began with music, followed by addresses of welcome by Mr. Ashley K. Hardy, President of the Board of Trustees of the Howe Library, and Mr. Nathaniel Goodrich, librarian of the Baker Library of Dartmouth College. The remainder of the evening was given to a marionette play, entitled "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" delightfully presented by the Children's Room staff of the Manchester City Library. At the close of the entertainment the librarians enjoyed a reception at the Howe Library.

The Thursday morning session began with a short business meeting. The first speaker on the program was Professor Stearns Morse of Dartmouth College, whose subject was "The American Scene through Colored Spectacles." He took the audience back to 1849 when the Scandinavian novelist, Frederika Bremer, came to visit the United States and wrote her impressions of the American people in a volume of letters to her sister in Sweden. Mr. John Cronan, well known throughout New England as a story teller, entertained the audience with selections from *The Blacksmith of Vilno, The Cat and the Captain,* and *Oliver Twist.*

On Thursday afternoon Mrs. Bertha V. Hartzell of the Boston Public Library gave a very helpful talk on "The Personal Equation in Library Service." The remainder of the afternoon was spent in a tour of the Dartmouth College buildings, including the beautiful new Baker Library, and ending with a tea at the Dartmouth Outing Club.

Following the Get-Together Dinner which was held at the Hanover Inn, Mrs. Alice Van Leer Carrick Skinner presented an illustrated lecture entitled "Collector's Luck in Spain." Mrs. Skinner also opened her home the "Next-to-Nothing House" for the inspection of the librarians during the afternoon.

At the last session of the convention on Friday morning, Mr. J. Hamilton Lewis, who is in charge of the Daniel Webster Council of Boy Scouts, delivered an address. He described the growth of the Boy Scout organization and urged the libraries to cooperate by purchasing the merit badge pamphlets, and having a special Boy Scout shelf. Mr. Louis P. Benezet, Superintendent of Schools in Manchester, then spoke on "The Four R's," which proved to be Reading, Reciting, Reasoning and Referring. The last part of the morning was given over to a round table on the mutilation of books, conducted by Mrs. Barron Shirley of Franklin. The association voted to send a resoultion to the Commissioner of Education, asking him to help abolish this practice by urging the teachers not to accept notebooks containing pictures taken from books or magazines.

The officers of the associaton elected for the coming year are as follows: President, Mr. William W. Shirley, librarian, N. H. State University Library; First Vice-president, Miss Mary Holland, Manchester; Second Vice-president, Miss Hazel J. Clark, Laconia; Secretary, Miss Marion A. Manning, Nashua; Treasurer, Mrs. Etta B. Dearborn, Belmont.

Rhode Island Library Association

THE RHODE ISLAND Library Association held the morning session of its fall meeting at the Gilbert Stuart Junior High School, Providence, R. I., on October 30, 1931, the president, Dr. Henry B. Van Hoesen of Brown University Library, presiding. The afternoon session was held in the Commercial High School Library as the Library Section of the R. I. Institute of Instruction. Mr. Clarence E. Sherman, librarian of the Providence Public Library, reported for the Committee on the Mutilation of Books that the State Department of Education would be glad to consider a definite program along this line. A committee was appointed to consider and act on a resolution regarding the certification of librarians, and it was voted that resolutions on Mr. Belden's death be spread on the records of the state organization. An interesting program followed the business session. Professor James P. Adams, acting vice-president of Brown University, gave a stimulating address on "The Economic Lights and Shadows of 1931," and presented the problems of international finance very graphically. Mr. Sherman conducted a round table discussion on "The Depression and the Public Library."

The effects of world wide depression on book publishing, on reading, on types of reading, and on the financial standing of libraries were considered in the discussion. The question of leniency in regard to fines during the depression was also touched upon. Professor James Adams Brown, Jr., chairman of the Rhode Island Committee on the World Disarmament Conference spoke on the question of disarmament. He urged librarians to make every effort to keep their readers alive to this question, for the worst attitude towards the subject is that of indifference. "Russia as I Saw It," was the subject of an address by Rev. Everett Moore Baker, of the Westminster Unitarian Church, who presented as the most interesting things about Russia, her social welfare reform, her educational program, and her attitude toward religion.

Illinois Registers Over Three Hundred

A REGISTRATION of three hundred and sixty-one made the October meeting of the Illinois Library Association, meeting at Peoria from October 21-23, the largest in its history. The conference opened with two luncheons, the Trustees' and the Children's Section, both followed by round tables. The Hon. Hugh M. Weston, comptroller of the city of Peoria, addressed the Trustees' Section on the relation of a city government to a public library. "Growth In Service" was the topic for the Children's Section, in which eleven children's librarians presented new projects in children's work, and discussed book selection and cooperation with schools. The Reference Section considered problems common to college and public libraries, with particular reference to cataloging, and "keeping up." An informal dinner followed by a book symposium completed the first day's program.

Relations between the lending department and the public, and a discussion of Waples and Tyler's *What People Want to Read About,* by Leon Carnovsky of the University of Chicago Graduate Library School, drew a large audience on Thursday morning. The "Value of Hospital Library Service" to the public Library was presented by Selma Lindem, librarian of the Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago, at the Friday morning session. F. K. W. Drury, librarian of the Nashville, Tennessee, Public Library, spoke at this session on personal service for adults in public libraries, the subject of his address being "Before and Not Behind the Counter." The report of the Certification Committee was given by the chairman, Elsie McKay, librarian of the Oak Park Public Library. This report, which recommended voluntary certification, was adopted by the Association with the recommendation that it be put into operation, and that the Certification Board, for which it provides, be instructed to work on a certification bill.

The State-Wide Library Extension Committee held its program on Thursday afternoon. The state P. T. A., Home Bureau, and Federated clubs were represented on this program by members of their organizations, and Professsor D. E. Lindstrom of the University of Illinois College of Agriculture contributed a paper on "The Importance of Farm Organizations as Aids in Rural Library Extension." The Committee, now in its second year of activity, reported on a definite publicity campaign carried out the past year through rural papers, radio, and other agencies, concentrating in certain counties selected as the best possibilities for county library development. A large auxiliary committee of other organizations has been formed to help further active interest in rural library service. The rural library theme was carried over to the evening meeting. The annual conference dinner, always anticipated as the combined program and social feature of the meeting, fulfilled expectations very happily this year. Sarah B. Askew, librarian and secretary of the New Jersey Library Commission, spoke on "Presenting County Libraries Attractively to Those who Would Benefit Most." Miss Askew was present during the entire conference and added greatly, not only by her address on Thursday evening, but, more informally, by a group of stories following the Wednesday evening dinner.

Officers for 1932 are: President, Emily Van Dorn Miller, editor Publications, American Library Association, Chicago; First Vice-president, Spencer Ewing, trustee, Bloomington Public Library; Second Vice-president, Charlotte Ryan, librarian, Jacksonville Public Library; Secretary, Effie A. Keith, assistant librarian, Northwestern University Library, Chicago; Treasurer, Beatrice Broughton, cataloger, Library Extension Division, Springfield.

South Dakota Library Association

THE SOUTH DAKOTA Library Association held its twenty-fifth annual meeting at Aberdeen, South Dakota, October 29 and 30. Addresses of welcome were given by I. N. Douglas, mayor of Aberdeen, and A. F. Mulligan, president, Alexander Mitchell Library Board. After a short business meeting the round tables were held. Economies in book buying, hospital work, schemes for stimulating circulation, and unit card cataloging were the themes for the Public Libraries Round Table, and at the College, Normal and High School Libraries Round Table the following topics were discussed: A.L.A. service for school libraries, methods used in training student assistants, library instruction, use of leisure time through reading, and library service for the faculty.

The main speaker for the afternoon was Miss Gratia Countryman, librarian of the Minneapolis Public Library, who spoke on "Administering the Public Library and the School Library as a Single Unit." She stressed the need of cooperation between school and public libraries and cited many ways in which they have similar interests and may work together. Mr. R. W. Kraushaar, Supervisor of Secondary Education in South Dakota, spoke on "The High School Library Situation in South Dakota." He explained the new system which calls for an expenditure of one dollar per pupil per year for all library facilities. Schools having less than seventy-five pupils are required to spend $75 per year for four-year and three-year high schools, $50 for two-year high schools, and $25 for one-year high schools.

Friday was given over to inspecting the new Marcus P. Beebe Memorial Library at Ipswich, South Dakota. The afternoon session was held at this place, and the speaker was Carroll Streeter, of the *Farmer's Wife* staff, St. Paul, Minnesota, who spoke on "Present Rural Conditions and Rural Needs." He pointed out the need of the farmer for good literature during this time of depression and stated that it was up to the city libraries to see that this need was satisfied.

The members of the association were entertained at a tea at the Aberdeen High School Library, Thursday afternoon, a banquet given by the Sioux Falls Book and Stationery Company Thursday evening, and later at the Northern State Teachers College Auditorium where they were the guests of the English Department and entertained by John Seaman Garns who gave the reading "Lazarus Laughed." Friday at noon they were given a luncheon at Ipswich by the Ipswich Library Board, and in the evening a banquet was given by the Alexander Mitchell Library Board at the Alonzo Ward Hotel, Aberdeen.

The following officers were elected: President, William H. Powers, librarian, S. D. State College, Brookings; Vice-President, Alberta Caille, librarian, Sioux Falls Public Library, Sioux Falls; Secretary-Treasurer, Helen Burgess, Reference Librarian, Free Library Commission, Pierre.

Thinking America

A LETTER to the American Library Association, proposing a plan whereby librarians can render important service in this period of economic depression, reads as follows:

> The President's Organization on Unemployment Relief appreciates the interest and cooperation of the American Library Association, the American Booksellers' Association and the National Association of Book Publishers, as expressed in a conference November 19th.
>
> This is a time when both communities and individuals are struggling with unusual economic, social and kindred problems brought about by emergency conditions. We believe that such organizations as named above can be most helpful and can render important services, especially by making available in libraries and elsewhere:
>
> 1. Such technical works as would prove most valuable to persons who are utilizing the present time to further their technical and educational training.
> 2. Publications dealing with economic, social and industrial problems.
>
> Sincerely yours,
> WALTER S. GIFFORD,
> *Director, President's Organization on Unemployment Relief.*

One And One-Half Fare to Chicago

THE A. L. A. has been granted one and one-half fare on the certificate plan on tickets to Chicago for the Midwinter meeting, costing 67c. or more by most railroads, provided at least 100 members, or dependent members of their families, apply for the certificates and turn them in for validation at the Midwinter Meeting. When buying ticket to Chicago, ask for a Certificate (not a receipt). Certificates will not be issued earlier than December 20 nor later than December 30. If the necessary minimum of 100 certificates is presented at the meeting and yours is duly validated by the Special Agent, you will be entitled, up to and including January 4, 1932, to purchase a return ticket via the same route over which you made the going journey, at one-half of the regular one-way tariff fare. Return tickets will be limited to thirty days and no refunds will be made on account of failure to get proper certificate or to get it validated.

Library Journals Wanted

THE LIBRARY JOURNAL will pay 15c. a copy for a limited number of November 15, 1931, issue.

School Library News

Administration of Elementary-School Library

THE THREE AUTHORS of this book are men whose experience has enabled them to assemble material that is concrete and practical. They do not so much attempt to present solutions as to state procedures that have proven successful under various conditions. The book discusses the principal in relation to the curriculum, the pupils, building organization and routine, the classroom teacher and pupil progress. Of particular interest to librarians is the chapter entitled "Administration of the Elementary-School Library."

A brief account of the historical development of libraries is given in which the function of the library is stated to be "for the distribution of ideas from one era of civilization to another as well as mediums for the exchange of contemporary thought."

In discussing school libraries, considerable attention is given to classroom and central libraries. The authors advocate an evolution from the former to the latter, describing the intervening steps. The central library under the guidance of a trained librarian is advocated because "without library materials, textbook teaching in content fields will often prove a monotonous and barren undertaking." The library presents an aid to individualization both through materials available, and by "transferring individual pupils from classroom to library when library opportunities are of greater importance than classroom study."

Some space is given to the library as an aid to leisure, the physical equipment and housing of the library room, methods of library support, inter-relationship of school and public library, and the qualifications of the librarian.

One notes two omissions: the library as administered through the Board of Education as in Detroit; and, under the librarian's qualifications, the deep necessity for a thorough knowledge of the school curriculum and of teaching methods used in subject classes.

Summing up, the authors define the school library in a central room under the guidance of a trained librarian as a source of integration with all other activities of the school, a source of guidance in reading, and a clearing house for instructional materials. The chapter should prove helpful in clarifying thinking in regard to the value of the elementary school library, the technique of its administration, and its relationship to the school.

GRETCHEN WESTERVELT.

Book Lists On School Studies

THE NEWARK, N. J., Public Library, through its school department, has issued for several years past a monthly bulletin, under the title "The Library Letter," devoted to series of book lists based on the course of studies in the elementary schools. Because of the number of requests and in order to further extend its usefulness, the Newark Library is now prepared to send this publication to out of town addresses at a charge of fifty cents for a year's subscription of ten issues.

The book lists appearing in "The Library Letter" have already been much used and commented upon for their usefulness in the class rooms. Previous issues have been devoted to Primitive Man, to Transportation, and to similar subjects closely correlated to the work of the schools. Reprint arrangements of individual issues of "The Library Letter" are also offered by the Newark Library whereby a number of these lists can be printed bearing the imprint of the school or other agency ordering them. Requests for "The Library Letter" should be sent to Miss Beatrice Winser, Librarian.

Recommend Only Few Juveniles

AT THE Child Study Association meeting during the week of October 20, one of the subjects discussed was juvenile reading. A committee which had made a study of last year's books for children reported that only 140 of the total of 800 could be recommended. Not all of the others were actually harmful, but 150 were vigorously condemned and the rest were passed as worthless.

Exchange Copies

THE LIBRARY of Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio, has for exchange back copies of *U. S. Geological Survey*—bulletins, annual reports, mineral resources and water supply papers—for other copies of same.

The Elementary School: **Its Organization and Administration. By William C. Reavis, Paul R. Pierce, and Edward H. Stullken. University of Chicago Press, 1931.**

In The Library World

New Buildings

THE CONSTRUCTION of the fifth new branch library building, included in the provisions of a branch library survey of the City of Providence made in 1926, has been authorized by the Board of Trustees of the Providence Public Library. Plans are now being prepared and it is expected that the building will be completed and occupied on or before July 1, 1932.

This new building is to be erected in the northerly section of the city in what is now known as the Smith Hill area and will supplant the present North End Branch, which has occupied rented quarters since its establishment in 1911.

The new branch is being erected under the cooperative plan entered into by the City Government and the Trustees of the Providence Public Library in 1929.

The Library, which is a private corporation giving free public service, purchases the site and meets the cost of construction and equipment from its endowment, receiving in return an increase of $10,000 in its annual appropriation from the City Government, which reimburses the Library for loss in income from the capital expended, and the balance meets the increased cost of operating a more adequate branch library.

The Providence City Government was influenced to act favorably upon the plan at this time because of its desire to stimulate building and business in general.

The site for this branch was purchased more than a year ago in anticipation of building. It is 120 feet long by 50 feet deep facing three streets. It is planned to erect a building of brick in the Colonial style of architecture which harmonizes with the other branches constructed thus far.

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THE PUBLIC Library Commission of New Jersey has moved into new quarters which were especially designed for its work in the new State House Annex at Trenton, New Jersey.

●

A NEW Memorial Library in the University of Southern California at Los Angeles has been christened after Dr. William N. Hailman, one of the beloved educators of the West.

Institute for Children's Librarians

A DAY'S institute for children's librarians was held by the Library Association of Portland on Saturday, November 7. Miss Siri Andrews, instructor in children's literature and work with children at the University of Washington Library School, was the principal speaker. The program for the morning dealt with the questions of standards and classics in children's literature, and the afternoon session was devoted to a study of the real meaning of work with children and story hours with model stories. The attendance numbered about seventy-five, among them children's librarians and high school librarians of the Portland system and the teacher-librarians of the public schools. Miss Harriet C. Long, State Librarian, Miss Edith Lathrop of the Bureau of Education, and Miss Jeannette Donaldson of the Department of Education of the State of Washington were also present. A few librarians from nearby towns also came to Portland for the meeting.

Braille Book Review Magazine

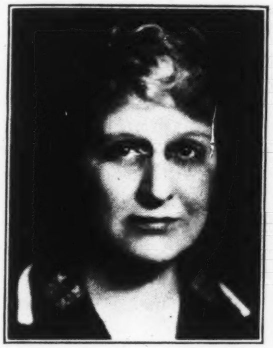
A NEW PERIODICAL, *The Braille Book Review*, in braille, a monthly literary magazine for the blind—the first of its kind—devoted to reviews of new books, biographies of contemporary writers, and essays on literature is being sponsored by the American Braille Press and the Henry F. Homes Fund of the New York Public Library. Although the first regular issue will not appear until January, 1932, a sample issue of 64 pages was published in November. The new periodical is edited by Lucille A. Goldthwaite, librarian of the Department for the Blind in the New York Public Library. It is distributed free of charge, except for a small registration fee, to blind readers throughout the world.

A Rag Paper Edition

THOSE OF US who think about the permanence of our records may care to note that a rag paper edition of the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland* appears with volume 61, January-June, 1931, as its first issue.

H. M. LYDENBERG.

This Is Gertrude Andrus!



An Unusual mix-up of photographs occured in the November 1 issue of The Library Journal in the article "Librarians in Book Selling" on page 900. For this article librarians who had gone into the field of bookselling were asked to send us their photographs. Miss Gertrude Andrus of the Frederick and Nelson Bookshop in Seattle, Washington, had her photograph sent direct to us from the photographers, Leonid Fink. We can vision the assistant going to the file of "A's" and taking out the photograph of an Andrews, Androscoggin, or Andromeda by mistake and sending it to us, but as we did not know what Miss Andrus actually looked like we did not know the mistake had occured. Much was our surprise, therefore, to have one of our readers write in saying something like this, "She is an attractive looking girl, but she is not Gertrude Andrus. Can't we have the real thing in the next issue?" Well, the mystery is partly solved and here is Miss Andrus, but we still wonder who the other person is.

Milwaukee Library Budget Cut

The Board of estimates cut $46,000 from the budget request of the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, library board on October 20, according to the *Milwaukee Journal.* This cut reduces the appropriations for library purposes to $480,883; their appropriation for 1931 amounted to $502,563 and the board asked for $526,628. Although every division of the Public Library was affected by the action of the board, the fund for purchasing new books (cut from $33,500 this year to $25,000 for next) was hit hardest.

Special Libraries News Notes

The Norfolk and Western Railway is one of the few American railroads to centralize information on transportation subjects for the use of its employees and others, according to an announcement made recently of the establishment of a Transportation Library in the railway company's General Office Building at Roanoke, Va. B. E. Young, chief clerk in the Magazine Department, has been appointed Librarian. The new library, located in the magazine office, now contains approximately 550 volumes, which were contributed primarily by the company's employees in response to a request published in the *Norfolk and Western Magazine.* It will operate as a circulating library, for employees and on a basis of "information only" to others. Books on railroading have the most prominent place in the new library, but it is hoped, the announcement pointed out, to eventually build up a complete reference library on the history and activity of all forms of transportation, as well as data on the territory served by the Norfolk and Western Railway.

●

The Annual Index to Volume V of *The United States Daily,* for the year ended March 4, 1931, has recently been published. ($15.00 on newsprint; rag paper edition, $20.00, The United States Daily Publishing Corporation, Washington, D. C.) The period covered by it continues the service of State activities of each of the States. This was begun in October, 1929, and comprises tax, public utility, banking, insurance, institutional and many other State activities. Outstanding features of reference value are the following: A list under Government Personnel of every State and Federal official mentioned in *The United States Daily* during the year ended March 4, 1931; a classified list under State Legislation of public bills introduced in the 1931 State legislatures; a list, by States, of the regular and special reports issued during 1930-31. The year 1931 was especially noteworthy in social betterment legislation, no less than thirty-four States having considered old age pensions in their State legislatures, while twenty-three considered unemployment. The subject of motor transport covers eight pages of the *Index.* The opinions of State attorneys general, the rulings of State public service commissions and the decisions of Courts have not only been summarized but have been listed under subject, as well.

A. L. A. Midwinter Meeting

December 28-31, 1931

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

A.L.A. Council

(Meeting open to all members of the A.L.A.)
Tuesday, December 29, 10:00 A.M.
Wednesday, December 30, 10:00 A.M.

A Working Program for the A.L.A.—Presentation of a statement by the Executive Board for Council consideration.

Libraries in the Depression:
- a. Unusual demands and opportunities
- b. Economizing to meet budget cuts
- c. Unemployment in the library profession

Annuities and Pensions—Report of Committee—Harold F. Brigham, Louisville Public Library, chairman.

Petition for a Section on Young People's Reading—Report of Committee on Chapters and Sections—Bessie Sargeant Smith, Cleveland Public Library, chairman.

Recommendation of Committee on Committees—H. O. Severance, University of Missouri Library, Columbia, chairman.

American Library Institute

President, Theodore W. Koch, Northwestern University Library, Evanston, Ill.

Wednesday, December 30, 8:00 P.M.

Open meeting. Dinner tentatively scheduled.

Association of American Library Schools

Vice-President, Carleton B. Joeckel, Department of Library Science, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Monday, December 28, 7:00 P.M.

Dinner meeting followed by evening session at Hotel Knickerbocker.

Board of Education for Librarianship

Wednesday, December 30, 2:30 and 8:00 P.M.
Business meetings—(closed sessions).

Board on the Library and Adult Education

Monday, December 28, 8:00 P.M.
Business meeting—(closed session).

College Librarians of the Middle West

Chairman, Mary B. Nethercut, Drake University Library, Des Moines, Ia.

Wednesday, December 30, 2:30 P.M.

College Assistants—Mrs. Grace McClanahan, Muskingum College, New Concord, O.; Mary E. Downey, State Library, Columbus, O.

Proposed College Library Department of A.L.A.—Henry B. Van Hoesen, Brown University Library, Providence, R. I.

New Buildings Suggestions—Eugenia Allin, James Millikin University, Decatur, Ill.; Betty Pritchett, Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Ia.

Executive Board

Monday, December 28, 10:00 A.M. and 2:30 P.M. (Closed session.)

Thursday, December 31, 10:00 A.M. and 2:30 P.M. (Closed session.)

League of Library Commissions

President, Essae M. Culver, Louisiana Library Commission, Baton Rouge, La.

Tuesday, December 29, 2:30 P.M.

Intensive Work with Young Groups—Marjorie H. Beal, North Carolina Library Commission, Raleigh, N. C.

The Need for More State Library Demonstrations. Discussion.

Reports on the White House Conference follow-up meetings from Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Illinois, and Louisiana.

Librarians of Large Public Libraries

Chairman, Harold F. Brigham, Free Public Library, Louisville, Ky.

Tuesday, December 29, 2:30 P.M.

Closed meeting. Attendance strictly limited to the chief librarians of public libraries in cities of over 100,000 inhabitants, and to their personal representatives.

Library Extension Board and League of Library Commissions

(Joint session.)

Chairman of the Board, Clarence B. Lester, Wisconsin Free Library Commission, Madison, Wis.; and President of the League, Essae M. Culver, State Library Commission, Baton Rouge, La., presiding.

Monday, December 28, 10:00 A.M.

Current Trends in State Government and Taxation.

State Agencies in Time of Depression. **(Symposium.)**

Library Extension Board

Wednesday, December 30, 2:30 and 8:00 P.M.
Business meetings. (Closed sessions.)

Normal School and Teachers College Librarians

Chairman, Carroll P. Baber, Kansas State Teachers College Library, Emporia, Kans.

Monday, December 28, 2:30 P.M.

(Two or three papers, followed by discussion.)

School Libraries Committee

Chairman, Helen M. Harris, Lawson-McGhee Library, Knoxville, Tenn.

Monday and Tuesday, December 28 and 29, 8:00 P.M.

Business meetings. (Closed sessions.)

Tuesday, December 29, 3:00 to 6:00 P.M.

Open house for school librarians and others interested in junior work, held from 3:00 to 6:00, under the auspices of the North Shore Library Club.

Special Libraries Association Executive Board and Advisory Council

Monday, December 28, 9:00 A.M. and 2:30 P.M. (Closed sessions.)

University and Reference Librarians

(Catalogers are invited to attend this meeting.)

Chairman, Earl N. Manchester, Ohio State University Library Columbus, O.

Tuesday, December 29, 8:00 P.M.

University Book Buying—Wilbur E. Pearce, College Bookstore Association, University Book Store, Rochester, N. Y.

Progress on the Cooperative Cataloging Project—Keyes D. Metcalf, New York Public Library, New York City.

Observations on the Reading of University Students—Samuel W. McAllister, University of Michigan Library, Ann Arbor, Mich.

University and Reference Librarians and College Librarians of the Middle West

(Joint session.)

Tuesday, December 29, 2:30 P.M.

Radio Hour For Children

The National Advisory Council on Radio in Education, its Committee on Library Cooperation consisting of Mr. Jennings, Mr. Spaulding, Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Drury, Mr. Milam, and Mr. Dickerson, have recommended that ways and means be found to broadcast two series of programs on nationwide hookups,—one on books and reading and the other for children. The Council took no action since no action was necessary, but the chairman feels justified in saying that the proposals were favorably received by representative members.

Without disregarding other studies and projects it is recommended that our Committee endeavor to have broadcast a special children's hour. We recommend immediate action on such a project because:

a. The possibilities of utilizing the radio as a means of furthering all that library work with children represents can hardly be ignored. Entering a vast number of homes as the radio does and daily catching and holding the interest of children at the most impressionable age, it must have an effect on the development of taste and habits on the emotional life of the child. In fact, eventually it must affect for good or ill child life in many of its most important aspects. To a children's radio program should be applied the best thought of those who are skilled in the technique of broadcasting, of children's librarians, of child psychologists, and of those organizations and institutions that are engaged in progressive work in child study and welfare.

Such programs are not common to say the least. There appears to be an obvious place for such a program in the broadcasts of the national chains, and such a program should stimulate rather than retard anything being done by local libraries.

b. There is a fair prospect that net-work facilities on a national basis will be made available for daily broadcasting if our Association presents a worth while and workable children's hour project.

In order that this committee may be organized for action, and that appropriate recommendations may be made to the Executive Board, we submit herewith a proposed plan of organization for your consideration and action.

Organization.

a. A radio children's hour project will be originated under the sponsorship of the American Library Association and the National Advisory Council on Radio in Education.

b. This project will be directed by the Committee on Library Radio Broadcasting in cooperation with the National Advisory Council's Committee on Library Cooperation.

c. This committee (A.L.A.) will appoint consultants and advisers, made up of children's and other librarians, representatives of National Advisory Council on Radio in Education, teachers, parents, publishers, booksellers, and child study and welfare groups, such as the National Recreation Association, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, etc.

The consultants and advisers primarily will aid the program director in planning and conducting programs.

d. A program of this nature will require the entire time of one person of peculiar ability and of technical and clerical assistants. It is impossible to make up a correct estimate of the makeup of such a staff at this time, but in addition to a director it might consist of a radio writer, a secretary-stenographer, and a publicity assistant.

The director will be nominated by this committee and officially approved and appointed by the Executive Board of the American Library Association.

The director will recommend assistants, advisers, and consultants who will be appointed by this Committee.

Under the direction of this committee the director will have full responsibility for planning and administration of the children's radio hour.

e. Finance. Such a project could be undertaken only with the assurance that free time could be had from one of the national broadcasting companies. The Committee would enlist the assistance of the National Advisory Council on Radio in Education in obtaining such time.

It is important that the project be financed from non-commercial sources. The Committee would have responsibility for obtaining necessary funds. It should be understood that such funds are not in sight. In this matter also the advice of the National Advisory Council on Radio in Education would be sought.

From The Library Schools

St. Catherine

Registration for The College of St. Catherine Library School, St. Paul, Minnesota, was held on September 24th. Even though high scholarship was the basis for selection for this year's class, the enrollment shows an increase of ten over last year's number. Nineteen of the students have registered for full time work, and nine for part time. Six of the group hold college degrees. The locality comparison shows that students come from eleven states—Minnesota, Iowa, Idaho, Kentucky, Michigan, Nebraska, New York, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Denver

The Students of the University of Denver School of Librarianship are now devoting two half-days a week to observation and practical work in school and public libraries. The schedule has been so arranged that each student is given an insight into the work of each type of school library and into the different departments of the public library, more time being given to that phase of work in which the student is particularly interested. The observation work in the schools was arranged through the cooperation of the Denver Public Schools administration; Miss Elizabeth Scripture, Supervisor of School Libraries; and Mr. G. S. Willey, Professor of Education and Principal of the Training School, at the University of Denver.

Louisiana

The New School of Library Science at Louisiana State University began its work with the opening of the scholastic year, September 21, 1931. This addition to the facilities of the University was made possible by a grant from the General Education Board of New York City, as well as by assurance of special funds from the University. It was specifically agreed that the school should be of graduate standard, admission being granted only to graduates of colleges and universities on the approved list. The school offers a general basic course in library science, but will give special emphasis to training for work in parish libraries and school libraries. Although the decision to start the school was not made until May 1, 1931, there is an enrollment of twenty-nine students, fifteen of whom are full-time.

Washington

The Alumni of the University of Washington Library School announce the forthcoming publication of a volume of Dean William E. Henry's collected papers entitled, *My Own Opinions of Libraries and Librarianship.* Dean Henry has collected the papers, and each volume will contain a snapshot of him and his autograph. Printing will be done by the University of Washington Press and the price will be two dollars. The book will be issued in a limited edition to subscribers only. As it is expected that distribution will be completed before Christmas, prospective purchasers should communicate with J. Ronald Todd, Treasurer of the Library School.

Wisconsin

The Twenty-Sixth class of the Library School of the University of Wisconsin has a membership of forty-two students this year. The geographical distribution shows a representation of seventeen from Wisconsin, five from Illinois, four from Iowa, two each from California, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, and one each from Connecticut, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, and South Dakota. Twenty are graduate students, one with a master's degree, seventeen are seniors on the joint-course basis, sixteen with the College of Letters and Science of the University and one with Marquette University; two are juniors, and three with other educational qualifications were accepted because they passed the entrance examination.

Western Reserve

The Enrollment of the 1932 Western Reserve class is ninety-three full time students. Sixty-four are taking the general curriculum, nineteen in library service for children, and ten in high school library curriculum. Six students are enrolled in the advanced graduate curriculum in library service for children and there are four special students. There are nine men this year, an unusual number for this School whose alumni are almost entirely women. Eighty-nine students are graduates of accredited colleges and universities, and fourteen are college seniors taking their fourth year in the School of Library Science. The geographical spread is unusually wide, twenty-four states and British Columbia being represented.

Among Librarians

Appointments

LAURA A. FOLTZ, Washington '26, after five years in the Reference Department of the Tacoma, Wash., Public Library is now librarian of the Mottet Branch Library of that city.

GENEVIEVE GEIGER, Drexel '28, has been appointed librarian of the Haverford Township Senior High School, Pennsylvania.

DAVID J. HAYKIN, Albany '25, has been appointed chief of the Division of Documents at the Library of Congress. He will begin work January 1, 1932, after resigning his present position as head of the American Library Association's office for D. C. numbers on L. C. cards.

HANNAH M. JONES, after fifty-five years of service as librarian of the Friends' Free Library, Germantown, Pa., was retired and has been appointed librarian emeritus of that institution.

ELIZABETH NATION has been appointed librarian of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens. Miss Mary Alice Thoms succeeds her as assistant in the Classification Department.

FRIDA PLIEFKE, Illinois '29, formerly of the Reference Department of the St. Paul, Minn., Public Library, has been appointed librarian of the Mayo Clinic Library, Rochester, Minn.

MILDRED POPE of Seattle has been appointed state librarian of Washington to succeed the late Jesse M. Hitt.

ELLEN L. WALSH, Washington '26, is high school librarian at the Ursuline Academy, Springfield, Illinois.

ELIZABETH WILLIAMS has resigned as librarian of the Public Library, Vinton, Iowa, after twenty-three years of service.

REBECCA WILSON, Michigan '28, has resigned as assistant in charge of Exchanges and Duplicates of the University of Michigan to become head of the Order Department in the Law Library. Her successor is Miss Jeannette Burrell of the Ohio State University Library.

SUZANNA YOUNG, Pittsburgh '18, is now extension librarian of the State Library, Department of Public Instruction at Harrisburg, Pa.

Necrology

WILLIAM ALANSON BORDEN, internationally known library authority and organizer of more than 400 public libraries in India, died November 16. Mr. Borden, a native of New Bedford, Mass., organized the Reynolds Library in Rochester, N. Y. He was in India from 1910-1913.

DEBORAH BEAUMONT MARTIN, librarian of the Kellogg Public Library at Green Bay, Wisc., since 1900, died suddenly on Thursday, October 1.

ELEANOR M. RUVENE, assistant librarian in the Municipal Reference Library of Chicago, died on August 7 as a result of being struck by an unlicensed automobile.

Charles F. D. Belden[1]

"HIS LIFE was devoted to the welfare of Boston. Year in and year out he worked not only as a librarian but as a public minded citizen for those things which make Boston the place to live in.

"His death takes me back to a morning in 1909 when I first met him at the Social Law Library. The State Library was in need of a director. When I left Mr. Belden I called up Horace G. Wadlin of the Boston Public Library, and suggested Mr. Belden for the State position. Mr. Wadlin came at once to the Athenaeum, we visited Mr. Belden, and then he went to Governor Draper. In less than an hour from my first acquaintance with Mr. Belden he became State Librarian.

"My next contact with Mr. Belden, in whose ability and judgment I had the greatest faith, came when the librarianship of the Boston Public Library became vacant. The late Josiah H. Benton telephoned to me that he could not live very long, that he had left a large part of his estate to the Public Library, and he must have a librarian whom he could trust. He urged me to see his fellow trustees of the Public Library (especially Dr. Mann) at once in behalf of Mr. Belden. The appointment followed. On both these occasions Mr. Belden proved his fitness for the burdens placed upon him.

"He gave to the State and to the city the best that was in him. He became a national character in the library world, and on more than one occasion represented American librarians in Europe with distinction. The value of his work will last, and the memory of his personal charm and gracious bearing will be prized by his countless friends."

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[1] By Charles K. Bolton of the Boston Athenaeum.

Book Club Selections

Book League of America

BERNARD SHAW. By Frank Harris. *Simon.*

Book Of-The-Month Club

ONLY YESTERDAY. By Frederick L. Allen. *Harper.*

The story of the nineteen twenties.

Business Book League

INCREDIBLE CARNEGIE. By John K. Winkler. *Vanguard.*

Catholic Book Club

IN MY END IS MY BEGINNING. By Maurice Baring. *Knopf.*

Life of Mary, Queen of Scots.

Children's Book Club

LAZY BEAR LANE (Primary Group). By Thorne Smith. *Doubleday.*

HOLIDAY HILL (Junior Group). By Edith M. Patch. *Macmillan.*

MAYFLOWER HEROES (Senior Girls). By Gleason L. Archer. *Century.*

WINDY ISLAND (Senior Boys). By Theodore A. Harper. *Doubleday.*

Freethought Book Club

CHRISTIANITY, LABOR AND SLAVERY. By Chapman Cohen. *Pioneer Press, London.*

Junior Literary Guild

THE FAIRY CIRCUS (Primary Group). By Dorothy Lathrop. *Macmillan.*

The fairies decide to have a circus of their own.

CHING-LI (Intermediate Group). By Alice W. Howard. *Macmillan.*

On the trail of a Red Dragon kite.

CALICO BUSH (Older Girls). By Rachel Field. *Macmillan.*

Story of a French girl of long ago.

CIRCUS (Older Boys). By Paul Eipper. *Viking.*

About the animals and the men and women and the joys of circus roaming.

Literary Guild of America

WELLINGTON. By Philip Guedalla. *Harper.*

Biography of the man who made the name "Waterloo" a synonym for defeat and brought to an end the power of Napoleon.

Religious Book Club

JESUS CAME PREACHING. By George A. Buttrick. *Scribner.*

The application of Christian principles to the new age.

White House Conference Booklets

A SET of fifteen leaflets based on the findings of the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection are available. Written by Mrs. Marion L. Faegre, assistant professor of Parent Education, University of Minnesota, five of the set form a "Series of Growth," five a "Series on Personality" and five, a "Series on Habits" available for $1.25 per set. Apply direct to Conference at Interior Building, Washington, D. C.

The Calendar Of Events

December 28-31—Mid-Winter A.L.A. meeting, Drake Hotel, Chicago, Ill.

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January 15, 1932—Massachusetts Library Club, winter meeting at Lecture Hall, Boston Public Library.

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March 4-5, 1932—New Jersey Library Association and Pennsylvania Library Club, annual meeting at Hotel Chelsea, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

●

April 25-30, 1932—American Library Association annual meeting at Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans, La.

●

May 9-11, 1932—California Library Association, annual meeting at Biltmore Hotel, Santa Barbara, California.

●

October 26-29, 1932—Southwestern Library Association, annual meeting at Little Rock, Arkansas.

Correction Note

THE ANNOUNCEMENT on page 909 of the November 1, LIBRARY JOURNAL stating that The Lawrenceville School for Boys at Lawrenceville, N. J., had a capacity of more than 1,000,000 volumes should be corrected to read 10,000 volumes. This note was taken from the *Herald-Tribune* and was evidently a misprint.

●

BY INADVERTENCE, in Dr. Bishop's report to the Executive Board about the meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations at Cheltenham, a mistake was made in recording the election of honorary vice-presidents. Professor De Gregori of Rome was not elected an honorary vice-president, but Signor Pier Silverio Leicht was elected to this post.

How to Obtain Telephone Directories

AS A RESULT of requests from individuals and libraries, application have been made to the directory engineer at the headquarters of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company as to the best method for reference libraries to obtain telephone directories for reference use. The directory engineer reported that in practically all of the larger cities of the country the telephone companies kept telephone directory libraries and that he saw no reason why the old directories from these libraries should not be turned over to the public library in the city when the new books appeared. In this way libraries could very easily build up a collection of telephone directories to be used for historical purposes.

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A Classified Directory of Supplies for Libraries and Schools

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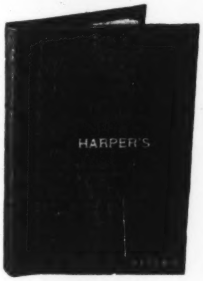

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Care and Repair of Books

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IN the last decade in this country, we have been hearing a good deal about "condition" among collectors when buying and selling rare books. The tendency, especially in the last four or five years, has been to become more discriminating and exacting. Booksellers and collectors have been taking a growing interest in the general appearance of their rarities, and naturally they are giving more attention to their care, cleaning, repairing and general restoration. This problem is going to be of increasing importance in America for many years to come.

The reason for this is very plain. A great deal of Americana, including broadsides, pamphlets, and books, were the product of early printers, poorly equipped, supplied with inferior material, working under very unfavorable conditions. Few, if any, of them had any idea that what they were printing would some day have historical importance and special value. And a great deal of the early printed material of these pioneer presses was unappreciated, had poor care, and the librarian, bookseller and collector are now taxed to make it presentable.

In the case of first editions of American authors of the nineteenth century, the demand has been growing rapidly in recent years and prices going up so fast that it is one of the wonders of book collecting. Collectors are particular about getting clean, sound and crisp copies, free from blemishes of all kinds. Satisfactory first editions of the masterpieces of American literature are becoming more difficult to procure. In many cases books with minor defects are all that are obtainable, and dealers and collectors must do the best that they can with what they can get. Dealers have not been slow in catering to the demand of their trade. Cellophane covers, cloth jackets, slip and solander cases have been used in profusion.

It is a highly technical problem to know what to do and how to do it, and it is almost as important to know what not to do, when valuable rarities are concerned. Dependable information has not been easily procurable. There are a number of French publications treating upon this subject but they only partially meet our needs, and they are mostly out of print and difficult to get. Considering the importance of the subject, the information in English is scanty and more or less scattered, and therefore not easily obtainable. In 1908, Mitchell S. Buck prepared a little handbook, "Book Repair and Restoration," which included some translated selections from French works, which was published in a limited edition that was soon exhausted. Occasionally a copy appeared in the auction room, or in a second hand bookseller's catalog, and the avidity with which it was snapped up showed the keen interest in the subject. It has been apparent that there was a great need of a dependable manual summing up the best current ideas and practices for collectors, booksellers and librarians in regard to cleaning and mending book pages, plates and bindings, and the general care of and restoration of books.

And at last this information has become easily available. Harry Miller Lydenberg and John Archer of the New York Public Library have written a volume on "The Care and Repair of Books" and the R. R. Bowker Company has just published it. It is an octavo of 127 pages, well printed on good paper, and attractively and substantially bound in cloth. The edition is not limited and the price is only $2.00, and doubtless it will be the most comprehensive and dependable adviser on this very important subject for many years to come.

The first chapter treats of the care of books in general: the sceond, the care of books in the library; the third, some enemies of books; the fourth, the repair and mending of books; the fifth, the treatment of paper, vellum, etc.; the sixth, the care of leather bindings; the seventh, the treatment of cloth bindings; the eighth, some other books, giving a list of references where additional material might be found. Side captions and a thorough index make the contents of the book quickly available. There are two full page illustrations showing some of the tools used in book repair and restoration.

The book throughout is written in a clear and simple style, comprehensive in the treatment of its subject, and so practical that any one can easily follow its directions. In the chapter, "The Repair and Mending of Books," it says: "Skill in mending books depends to a certain extent on the knowledge the mender has of the way books are made. The more one knows about bookbinding materials, leather, paper, cloth, thread, paste, glue, the better the chances of success. How will the paper wear? Is it brittle or tough? How do paste and glue affect it? Knowledge of these and similar points, joined to practice in mending and repairing will help mightily. . . . But in many cases the life of books can be materially lengthened if intelligent first aid is given as soon as the signs of ill health appear. After a book begins to break, its lesions call for practiced care and attention quite obviously as torn skin and broken bones on the human frame. Book anatomy is not so complex or intricate as that of the upper vertebrates, to be sure, but the surgeon must have sympathy and training whether treating books or men. There is no reason, however, why the average collector and lover of books should not make minor repairs—after he has learned how the books are put together." But if the collector does not want to make his own repairs, he will find this book most practical in giving him the information that he should have in caring for his books and directing others.

Many will feel grateful to Mr. Lydenberg and Mr. Archer for the care and skill with which they have written this useful and much needed manual, and, also, to The R. R. Bowker Company for the good taste used in printing it, and also in its publication. We are glad to note that it is not printed in a limited edition, that its price is reasonably low, and that it is likely to be a standard work on this important subject and easy to procure for a long time.

FREDERICK M. HOPKINS.

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